

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

**Hunting Season
2006-2007**

Special Section
Pages 13-16

★ July 28, 2006 Texas' Premier Outdoor Newspaper Volume 2, Issue 23 ★
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INSIDE HUNTING



Experts say the key to protecting deer is not targeting predators such as coyotes, but improving habitat management to provide better hiding places during the fawning season as well as encouraging a tighter drop season.
See Page 6

A new film aims to convey the hunting experience for women. Director Carol Wagner of Austin says women hunters enjoy the thrill of the hunt just like men. However, they're less hung up on numbers and are more into the overall outdoors experience.
See Page 7

FISHING



Many Texas offshore anglers are fishing at night to beat the heat.
See Page 8

Rattling floats are attracting anglers and fish alike. They're the current rage in salt-water fishing.
See Page 9

NATIONAL

Angler Denny Brauer snagged the honor of BASS career earnings leader — at least temporarily — away from Kevin VanDam with a win at Lake Champlain in New York.
See Page 4

CONSERVATION

New tarpon tags, which track tarpons and give information on their movements, may give scientists an idea why their numbers have declined since the 1950s.
See Page 5

DEPARTMENTS

On the Move	Page 10
Game Warden Blotter	Page 19
Heroes	Page 20
Outdoor Datebook	Page 21
Puzzler	Page 22
Wild in the Kitchen	Page 22
Weather	Page 22
Fishing Report	Page 23
Tournaments	Page 25

Be a sure shot

Shoot for percentages, not numbers

BY WES SMALLING

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, especially two dead birds you'll never find. If you hunt, you've probably

had that sinking feeling, as you stand helplessly in the blind watching a bird you've wounded fly away.

Studies by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicate that waterfowl hunters cripple about

30 percent of the birds they shoot at and that 80 percent of those birds die within two weeks.

Here's five tips from the experts on how to reduce the

See SURE SHOT, Page 18



KNOW YOUR LIMITS: Hunters should aim at reducing the number of wounded ducks this season by making the right shot choices.

Anglers hone weedless ways

Baits aplenty for hooking a fish in the grass

BY DANNO WISE



SIZZLING SUMMER: Anglers deal with summer grass by using weedless lures to attract aggressive red drum. Photo by David J. Sams.

Grass is a bay fisherman's greatest time robber in late summer.

Whether it be mowing his lawn, which prevents him from getting on the water, or plucking from his lure, which prevents him from making casts in rapid succession, grass certainly slows the fish-finding process in July and August.

Though little can be done to reduce lawn maintenance, today's inshore anglers have plenty of options to help them avoid the grass that covers the bay floor during late summer. Additionally, some of today's weedless baits allow anglers to probe inside of our inshore grass beds and find the fish seeking refuge there.

Although many of these weedless options were originally invented to help their bass fishing counterparts, innovative inshore anglers have learned to take advantage of the existing technology in recent years.

"Of course, you've probably heard this a million times, but you can hardly go wrong with a weedless gold spoon when fishing heavy grass," said Rockport guide and FLW Redfish Tour angler Capt. Darrell Walter. "But, you can also do real good with a worm rigged Texas-style, although hook setting becomes a bit of an issue, since you have to punch the hook through the plastic.

"One other thing I like throwing when it gets real weedy is that (Stanley) Ribbit Frog. You wouldn't think to throw that, but if you're around semi-aggressive fish, they'll come up and blast it. Buzzin' that frog across the top can be a lot of fun."

Anglers throwing a Texas-rigged soft-plastic during late summer can rig these baits weight-

See GRASS, Page 24

Lake Fork hot for summer lunkers

BY JOHN N. FELSHER

Most people know Lake Fork, a 27,690-acre impoundment near Quitman, for producing huge bass during late winter and early spring. February and March at Fork each produced 10 of the top 50 bass ever caught in Texas.

However, people can still catch quality fish

See FORK, Page 24



HOT CATCH: Lance Vick admires a 10-pound summer bass.

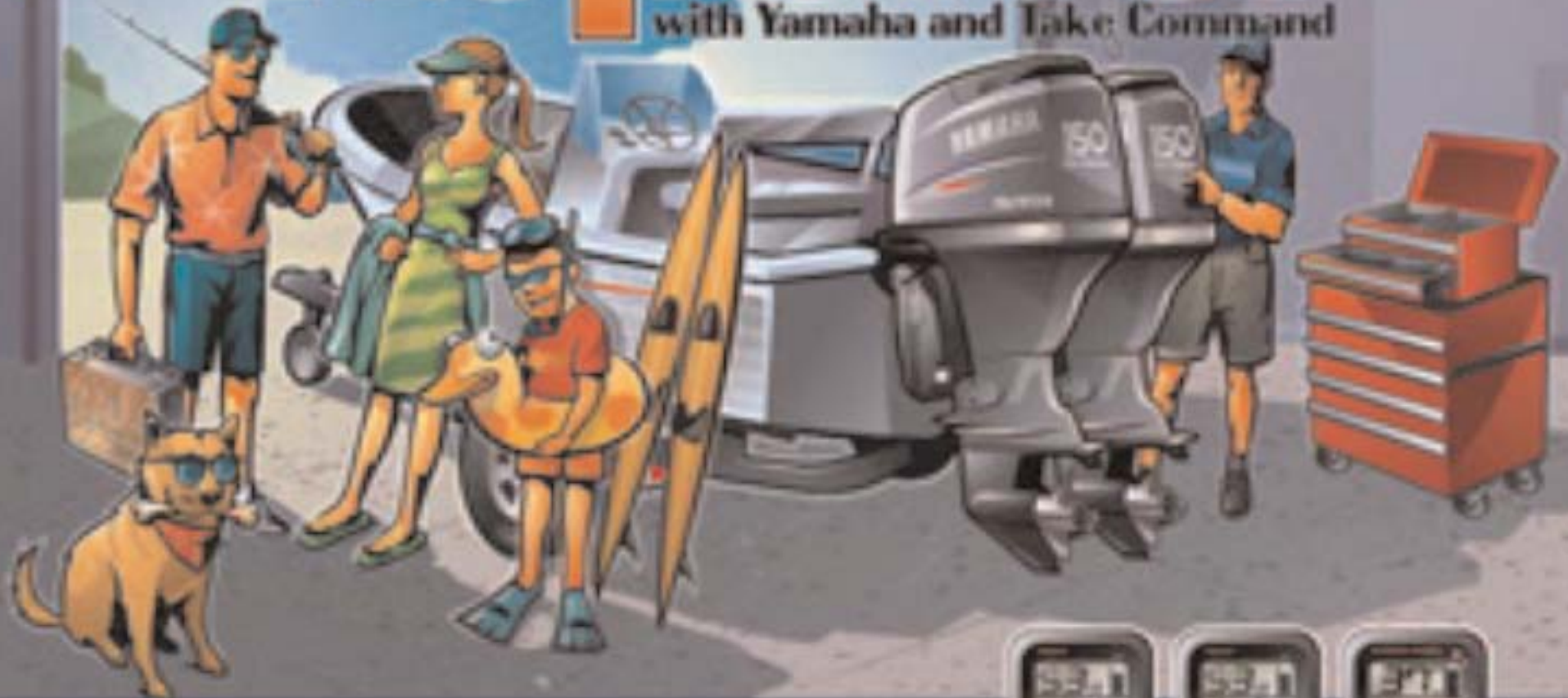
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20-250	250	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$1799	\$1799	\$1799
20-300	300	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$2199	\$2199	\$2199
20-400	400	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$2999	\$2999	\$2999
20-500	500	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$3999	\$3999	\$3999
20-600	600	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$4999	\$4999	\$4999
20-750	750	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$6499	\$6499	\$6499
20-900	900	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$7999	\$7999	\$7999
20-1000	1000	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$8999	\$8999	\$8999
20-1150	1150	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$9999	\$9999	\$9999
20-1300	1300	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$10999	\$10999	\$10999
20-1500	1500	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$12999	\$12999	\$12999
20-1750	1750	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$14999	\$14999	\$14999
20-2000	2000	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$16999	\$16999	\$16999
20-2250	2250	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$18999	\$18999	\$18999
20-2500	2500	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$20999	\$20999	\$20999
20-2750	2750	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$22999	\$22999	\$22999
20-3000	3000	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$24999	\$24999	\$24999
20-3500	3500	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$29999	\$29999	\$29999
20-4000	4000	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$34999	\$34999	\$34999
20-4500	4500	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$39999	\$39999	\$39999
20-5000	5000	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$44999	\$44999	\$44999
20-5500	5500	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$49999	\$49999	\$49999
20-6000	6000	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$54999	\$54999	\$54999
20-6500	6500	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$59999	\$59999	\$59999
20-7000	7000	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$64999	\$64999	\$64999
20-7500	7500	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$69999	\$69999	\$69999
20-8000	8000	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$74999	\$74999	\$74999
20-8500	8500	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$79999	\$79999	\$79999
20-9000	9000	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$84999	\$84999	\$84999
20-9500	9500	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$89999	\$89999	\$89999
20-10000	10000	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$94999	\$94999	\$94999

PROMOTION BENEFIT OPTION TWO**

Model No.	Power (Horsepower)	Comments	MSRP	Trade-In Credit	Yamaha Credit
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20-200	200	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$1399	\$1399	\$1399
20-225	225	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$1599	\$1599	\$1599
20-250	250	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$1799	\$1799	\$1799
20-300	300	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$2199	\$2199	\$2199
20-400	400	2-Stroke Super Outboard	\$2999	\$2999	\$2999

*Promotion is subject to dealer's applicable inventory. Dealer credit will be used to offset the purchase price of the new outboard motor. Dealer credit may be used to offset the purchase price of the new outboard motor.

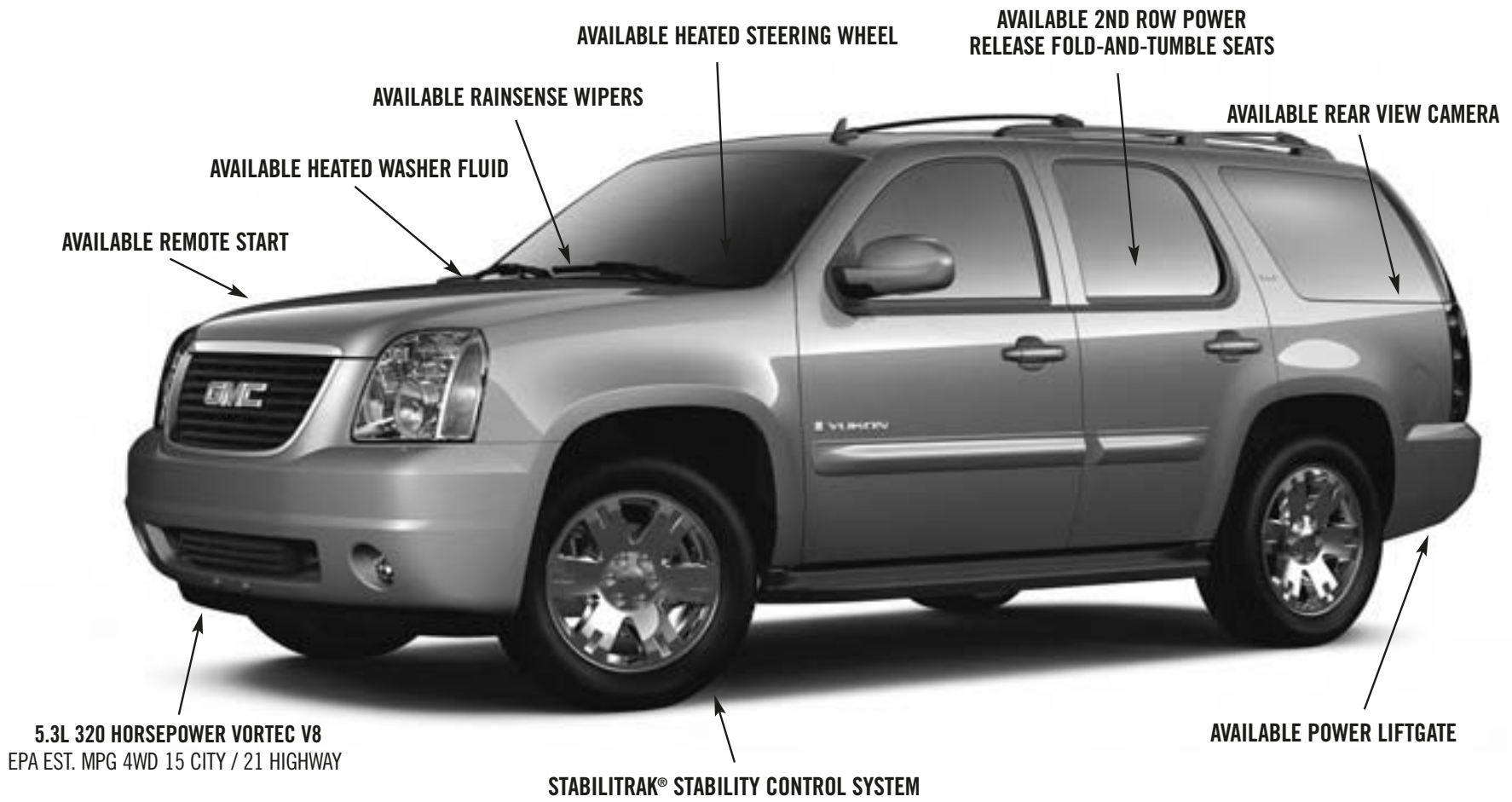
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NATIONAL

Dead Zone

Hypoxia-affected area expected to grow, scientists say

A team of scientists from NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium and Louisiana State University is forecasting that the "Dead Zone" off the coast of Louisiana and Texas this summer will be larger than the average size since 1990.

This NOAA team predicts this summer's "Dead Zone" will be 6,700 square miles, an area half the size of the state of Maryland. Since 1990 the average annual hypoxia-affected area has been approximately 4,800 square miles.

The forecast is based on nitrate loads from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers in May and incorporates the previous year's load to the system.

The "Dead Zone" is an area in the Gulf of Mexico where seasonal oxygen levels drop too low to support most life in bottom and near-bottom waters. It is caused by a seasonal change where algal growth, stimulated by input of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers, settles and decays in the bottom waters. The decaying algae consume oxygen faster than it can be replenished from the surface, leading to decreased levels of dissolved oxygen.

Research indicates that nearly tripling the nitrogen load into the gulf over the past 50 years has led to the heightened Gulf of Mexico hypoxia problem.

— An NOAA report.

'It was a dream day'

Brauer nabs BASS earnings lead

Denny Brauer became the BASS career earnings leader with a 23-pound, 4-ounce bag to win the \$100,000 first-place prize in the CITGO Bassmaster Champion's Choice on Lake Champlain in New York.

Brauer finished with a four-day total of 20 bass weighing 80 pounds, 3 ounces. Brent Chapman of Shawnee, Kan., finished second with 72-5.

"It was a dream day to have on the last day of a tournament," Brauer said. "Execution-wise, I don't know if it was the best tournament I've ever had, but it's close."

Kevin VanDam had moved ahead of Brauer on the all-time money list, with both of them topping the \$2 million mark. The \$100,000 check Sunday put Brauer back on top.

"I was very, very proud of that," said the 57-year-old Brauer of the first time he moved to the No. 1 spot. "I took it from Larry Nixon, a good friend of mine."

"I can tell you right now Kevin will pass me eventually. But I'm not going to go away quietly."

— A BASS report.



IN THE MONEY: Denny Brauer landed a \$100,000 check for winning the CITGO Bassmaster Choice on Lake Champlain. Photo by BASS.

Deer test positive for chronic waste disease

Three deer in southern New Mexico have tested positive for chronic wasting disease, bringing the total number of confirmed CWD-infected deer in the state to 15 since the first infected deer was discovered in 2002.

The New Mexico Game and Fish Department received test results Wednesday from the state Veterinary Diagnostic Services laboratory in Albuquerque that two wild deer captured near the White Sands Missile Range headquarters east of Las Cruces had tested positive for chronic wasting disease. A third wild

deer captured in the small community of Timberon in the southern Sacramento Mountains also tested positive for the disease.

Chronic wasting disease is a fatal neurological illness that afflicts deer, elk and moose. There is no evidence of CWD being transmitted to humans or livestock. The disease causes animals to become emaciated, display abnormal behavior and lose control of bodily functions. To date, it has been found in captive and wild deer, elk and moose in eight states and two Canadian provinces.

— A New Mexico Game and Fish report.

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CONSERVATION

Satellite targets tarpon Study to shed light on migration patterns

For many a veteran angler, the pinnacle of a fishing career comes with his first tarpon hook-up.

Throughout the 1950s, tarpon tournaments were commonplace on the Texas Gulf coast.

Then, the tarpon seemed to disappear. By the early 1970s, the sought-after sportfish were rarely seen off Texas, and even more rarely landed. And no one knows why.

Biologists say several factors likely contributed to the species' decline.

"It is difficult to put your finger on the one reason for the decline in tarpon along the Texas coast," said Larry McKinney, director of Coastal Fisheries for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "It is likely a combination of many

things. One of the confounding factors is that we actually know very little about the biology of the species."

Researchers hope to change that beginning with the Tarpon Tomorrow Pro-Am Tournament Aug. 4-5. At the event, headquartered at Laguna Harbor in Bolivar, scientists will attempt to place as many as one dozen pop-up archival transmitting tags on tarpon.

The tags, known by the acronym "PAT," are embedded in the muscular backs of the fish for up to two years. While being towed by the tarpon, the tags record the fish's movement, water depth and water temperature at regular intervals.

At a preset time, the tag pops off the fish and floats to the surface where it transmits the recorded

information to an orbiting satellite.

"It's going to tell us, we hope, information concerning Texas tarpon migration as well as their behavior in entering and leaving Texas estuaries," said Scott Alford, tournament committee chairman for Tarpon Tomorrow, a non-profit foundation dedicated to understanding and protecting tarpon stocks. "There's also going to be an effort to place some tags in tarpon off Port O'Conner and in the bay."

Tarpon Tomorrow is the driving force behind the ongoing project and is leading a group of like-minded sportfish conservation organizations — Tarpon and Bonefish Unlimited and the Coastal Conservation Association — in gathering support for the study.

— *A Texas Parks and Wildlife report.*

Land reclamation changes benefit quail

New alternatives for reclaiming mined lands in Texas means thousands of acres of new quail habitat could be realized each year, according to wildlife biologists with Texas Parks and Wildlife.

A cooperative effort between TPW and the Railroad Commission of Texas has paved the way for mined lands to be reclaimed into habitat that will support quail and other upland grassland bird species.

Texas has 13 operating mines and 6 mines going through the reclamation process. There are about 55,000 acres of mine land reclaimed annually in Texas.

"We see this as an opportunity to meet some of the objectives of the Texas Quail Conservation

Initiatives on reclaimed mine lands," said Robert L. Cook, TPW Executive Director. "We applaud the Railroad Commission for working with TPW staff in getting changes to federal revegetation regulations in support of this conservation effort. This is being viewed by others in the conservation community as a model that offers great potential in other parts of the country."

Throughout their range, bobwhite quail populations nationwide have declined from an estimated 59 million birds in 1980 to about 20 million in 1999.

Changes to the landscape during the last two decades — primarily urban growth, conversion of native grasslands to exotic grasses like

coastal Bermuda and monoculture pine plantations — have robbed quail and other species of usable space, according to wildlife biologists.

The new reclamation options will enable mining companies that own the reclaimed areas to increase wildlife habitat on their lands, and create additional benefits for private landowners who lease their lands for mining.

For landowners the new wildlife habitat option could provide a new revenue source from quail hunting, while allowing conversion of an agriculture tax exemption to a wildlife tax exemption.

— *A Texas Parks and Wildlife report.*



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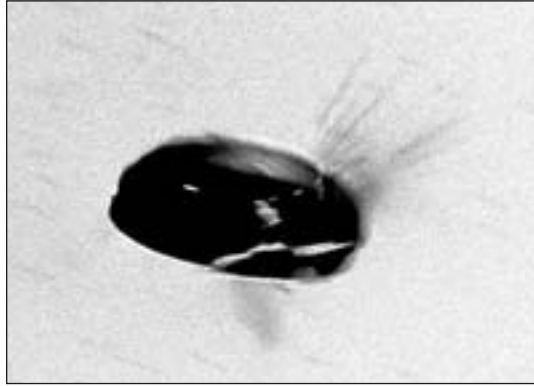
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HUNTING

Look of clays often deceiving



TARGET SKILLS: A sporting clays shooter takes aim at the Dallas Gun Club. Photo by David J. Sams.



Target setters add special twist to course design

BY RALPH WININGHAM

Breaking a sporting clays target is often a head-to-head battle between a shooter and the person who set the course with a goal of making easy targets hard to hit.

A target setter's tricks of the trade can put a shooter off balance by making a target seem to be flying slower or faster than it is; or use terrain to give the target a deceptive angle of flight (target line).

If a sporting clays shooter does well, he or she normally takes the credit. If the final score is disappointing, the shooter often blames

the course designer.

Probably one of the most praised — and most criticized — target setters in the country is Mike McAlpine of San Angelo, who has recently started conducting clinics across the country called Target Reading and Presentation Seminars (TRAPS).

"There have been times when I have designed a course and had a shooter tell me that I set the best targets he ever shot. Then, the very next shooter I see will tell me that they were the worst targets he ever shot.

"As a course designer, it is my job to set the targets and it is the shoot-

er's job to break them. If I give them a fair chance to break the target and they don't, it's not my fault," McAlpine said.

Drawing upon 35 years of clay target experience and after having set nearly 800 courses from world championships to local competitions, the former National Sporting Clays Association chief instructor said his clinics are a unique concept.

During one of his three-day sessions held at the Capital City Trap and Skeet Club in Austin earlier this month, McAlpine said that by exploring the how's and why's of a

See Clays, Page 7

Predator prey

Fawning cover, habitat management help shield deer from coyotes

BY LINDSAY THOMAS JR.

For deer hunters who are concerned about coyotes, there is reassuring news in the results of the most comprehensive, long-term study of carnivores in the United States.

Conducted by students and faculty of Mississippi State University (MSU), the project lasted almost 10

years.

Bruce Leopold is the head of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at Mississippi State, and supervised the carnivore study. According to the study, deer are an important food source for coyotes based on how frequently deer hair is found in coyote scats. However, the manner in which coyotes acquire this food is important.

"Our study showed two main

peaks for finding deer hair in coyote scats: during fawning season and during the hunting season," Leopold said. "The rest of the year there wasn't much at all. One to five scats out of 50 to 100 that we were collecting per month would contain deer hair."

The peak during fawning season supported the well-known idea that coyotes are random, opportunistic predators of fawns.

MSU researchers found that while deer were an important food source for coyotes, there was no appreciable impact on the overall deer population.

The research helped identify practices that can limit the impact of coyotes by revealing where and when coyotes are most effective in their predation. "Our results said that the best investment you could make toward limiting the impact of

coyotes on deer is not to trap or shoot coyotes but to manipulate the habitat so that deer have many areas for fawning that are scattered across the landscape," Leopold said.

"Although coyotes hunt by scent, most fawns give off very little scent for the first few weeks," Leopold said. "And a coyote has to get within 100 to 200 feet of the

See Coyotes, Page 18



VICTIM OF THE WILD: Coyotes rarely attack mature deer unless they are in a weakened state following injury or illness. This buck, which suffered injuries from black brush thorns in its hoofs, seeks refuge in a stock tank after being attacked by coyotes in South Texas.

Hunter education class gateway to the outdoors



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM: Students participate in a hunter education course at Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. Photo by Larry Hodge.

BY BILL MILLER

A game warden's badge is no inoculation against a hunter's bad judgment.

Warden Michael McCall, a six-year veteran who patrols Tarrant County, recently recalled how he once got peppered with birdshot.

"The guy swung on a bird and he wasn't aware of where I was standing," McCall said recently at a hunter education course at Cabela's in Fort Worth.

"He was old enough so that he wasn't required to take the class," McCall added, "but it could have taught him how to avoid what happened. I'd hate to speculate if it didn't exist."

Texas requires every hunter to successfully complete its Hunter Education Training Course

if they were born on or after Sept. 2, 1971.

To understand what it was like before then, spend a few moments with Terry Erwin, who oversees hunter education for Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Erwin, also president of the International Hunter Education Association, fires off Texas safety statistics like he's reading a grocery list.

For example, there were 105 hunting accidents in 1968, he said, and 37 of them were fatal. But last year, he noted, the number of accidents reached only 31, with two fatal.

"One accident is too many," Erwin said, "but you can see how significantly the numbers have been dropping year after year."

He credited Kentucky and New York for starting the hunter safety movement about 50 years

See Safety, Page 18

Big screen captures women on the hunt

BY DARLENE MCCORMICK
SANCHEZ



SHOWTIME: Film crew from left to right: Diane Zander Mason (camerawoman), Heather Mitchell (sound recordist), Carol Wagner (producer/director) and Tara Hamlin (camerawoman) are shown at Texas Trophy Club Ranch. Photo by Sally Jo Frame.

For some, the idea of women hunting is an anomaly — even in Texas.

Carol Wagner, an Oklahoma native who now lives in Austin, is out to change all of that with a new documentary: "Dressed To Kill — Women Who Hunt."

Never mind that Wagner, 48, is a newcomer to filmmaking. She grew up hunting and knew that nobody had documented female hunters for the big screen. In her experience, women hunters were just everyday women who loved the outdoors.

And for many, hunting had the extra bonus of offering women a way to feed their families healthy, low-fat meat.

"These are not female bubbas. They're not out there shooting everything up," she said. "I think that's what's conveyed in this film, it's about being outdoors. It's not just about hunting an animal."

Wagner wanted the film to simply tell it like it is. Teresa Davidson, assistant director of the film, was from New York and wasn't a hunter, so Wagner felt the film would be balanced.

Funding for the project wasn't easy to come by. She found out that traditional grants weren't the way to go. To get the help she needed, Wagner began approaching the powerhouses

of the industry — like Browning and Leupold & Stevens Inc. At first, people were leery that a filmmaker — often synonymous with Hollywood and anti-hunting — wanted to do a documentary on hunting.

But Wagner, who was in marketing for years, used her powers of persuasion and a film was born. The labor lasted four years.

During that time, women — most from Texas — began to open up on camera offering a fascinating view of hunting among females. They experience the adrenaline rush just like men when they pull the trigger. But egos don't seem to get in the way when

"Dressed To Kill — Women Who Hunt" is scheduled to play Aug. 13 at 5:30 p.m. in Dallas at the Dallas Theater Center. For more information, visit www.videofest.org.

one woman bags a magnificent animal.

"It's a very thoughtful process for the women," Wagner said.

Deborah Wardlaw Cleverdon of Houston was one female hunter who decided to participate in the docu-

mentary. Cleverdon has hunted since she was a girl: "I shot my first deer when I was 14, I believe."

Cleverdon said she tagged along with the boys when she was younger, but her dad didn't encourage her to hunt. "Girls weren't supposed to do that sort of thing," she said.

Later in life Cleverdon got into hunting in a big way. Now, at 55, she teaches women to shoot and helps arrange hunts for them through the Texas State Rifle Association. This year she hopes to go on eight to 10 hunts across the state.

So why does she hunt? "It's just so heart-felt. I love just being out there.

Taking the animal is just such a minor part of it," Cleverdon said.

Cleverdon said landowners are catching on to the idea as well, realizing that women hold the purse strings in many families.

Sally Jo Frame, a Round Rock resident, can only describe hunting as a passion. She grew up in Florida and has fond memories of when her father would take her with him on hunting trips.

She didn't get into hunting until she was 46, in 2003, a few years after her father gave her his deer rifle.

"Man, was I hooked. I found what I was going to do for the rest of my life," she said. "I shot a doe. I mean to tell you the adrenaline rush was so unbelievable."

And though she never hunted with her father, who died in 2004 at age 90, she got to share her hunts with him through telephone conversations. Hunting brings a feeling of closeness with her father that will never fade away for Frame.

"I tell you I feel him in the blinds with me. Every time I pick up a gun..." she said.

As for response to the film, Wagner said so far it's been positive. Women Who Hunt has been accepted at film festivals in Oklahoma, Wyoming, New York and Texas.

Darlene McCormick Sanchez is contributing editor for the Lone Star Outdoor News.

Clays

Continued from Page 6

target setter's goal in designing a course, everyone can improve their sporting clays experience.

"I think a good target presentation is one that doesn't try to beat a shoot-

er, but tries to challenge a shooter," he said. "Targets can vary from one day to the next on the same course."

"This is what makes sporting clays so appealing to shooters — variety is the spice of life."

While he is hesitant to give away all of his tricks of the trade, McAlpine did offer these suggestions for shooters who seem to be baffled by certain target presentations:

A Box View — By removing the top and bottom of a box of shotgun ammunition, a shooter can create a viewer that will provide four points of reference of the target line. This will allow the shooter to determine if a target is rising or falling; drifting left or right; or flying faster or slower than it appears. With this knowledge, the shooter will have more information in preparing for the shot.

Hard Focus — This is the most important visualization tool for a sporting clays shooter. By looking at the target with intense focus, it will appear to slow down. "The target will be easier to break because it will seem that you do not have to move your gun as fast," McAlpine said. He added that if a target is dropping or angling downward, focus on its bottom edge, while if it is rising, keep your focus on the

dome or top of the target.

"The most important thing is to be safe, and the second most important thing is to have fun," he said.

McAlpine can be reached at his Clay Target Academy by calling (325) 651-7810.

Ralph Winingham is an outdoor writer and National Sporting Clays Association shooting instructor based in San Antonio.



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FISHING

Hybrids striking in Texas heat

Fishing has been 'surprisingly good'

BY DIANA KUNDE

Texas Parks and Wildlife began stocking hybrid striped bass in the state's lakes and reservoirs more than 30 years ago. The love affair between anglers and this fighting fish has been growing ever since.

"I think they fight better than stripers," said Michael Shore, a Dallas angler who likes to fish Richland Chambers Reservoir. The fishing's been "surprisingly good" at the 41,356-acre lake lately, considering the hot weather, he said.

"If they're big enough, they'll (hybrids) make two or three runs. It's almost like fishing for little marlin," Shore said.

Hybrids are considered to have "a hybrid vigor" because they get genes from two species, said Brian Van Zee, a regional director of inland fisheries for TPW. The hybrid striped bass is the offspring of white bass and striped bass.

The idea behind the hybrid striper, said Van Zee, was to produce a predator with the fight of a striped bass and the warm water tolerance of the white bass or sandie.

Parent striped bass also survive well in Texas lakes, but tend to seek out the thermocline — the cooler



HEFTY HYBRID: Michael Shore caught this estimated 8-pound hybrid striped bass at Richland-Chambers Reservoir. The fish was caught on chartreuse slab spoon in 40-foot of water suspended at 24 feet. Shore was fishing with guide Bob Holmes. Photo by David J. Sams.

water at the bottoms of large lakes — during summer months.

"Both stripers and hybrids are really good fighters. During the heat of the summer, probably the hybrid is a better fighter," Van Zee said.

TPW does the breeding and rearing of these hybrid bass in its own

hatcheries and raises about 2.5 million fingerlings a year for stocking. "Typically, our hybrids go into smaller reservoirs. They fill a niche," Van Zee said. The hybrids don't reproduce.

TPW stocked 20 lakes around the state this year with the hybrids. The stocked lakes include Richland

Chambers, Tawakoni, Fort Phantom Hill, Georgetown, Cooper, Conroe, Nasworthy, Calaveras and Victor Braunig, among others. Anglers can check the TWP Web site or a good state atlas for stocked lakes.

Jim Taylor, a banker and part-time fishing guide from Emory, has

been catching "a lot of numbers" on Tawakoni, he said. One recent Wednesday, he, his son and a friend brought in their limits on hybrid and striped bass (five each of either variety) but probably caught about 35 fish between them, releasing the

See Hybrids, Page 9

By the light of the moon

Offshore fishing at night can be hot

BY PETER YOUNG

As summer temperatures hit record-setting highs, many Texas offshore anglers are fishing at night to beat the heat.

In addition to the cooler nocturnal temperatures, few spectacles can compare to the awe of an offshore sunset or the view of the vast, starry skies in open waters.

Omar Torres, first mate aboard the Risa Ann out of South Padre Island, reports nice catches of large snapper, grouper and shark.

Risa Ann and her crew troll during the day on a typical 24-hour trip. At sundown, they anchor up on "the rocks" about 60 miles offshore and begin bottom fishing.

Nocturnal anglers in search of the bottom dwellers on the mid-Texas coast can head to Deep Sea Headquarters or Dolphin Docks, located in the heart of Port Aransas.

Deep Sea Headquarters employee Rick Laros reports that the 12-hour night trips have been producing red snapper, vermillion snapper, kingfish and sharks.

"On our 11-hour night trips, we've been catching kingfish, red snapper, Atlantic sharpnose sharks, dog snapper and some large vermillion snapper about 30 or 40 miles offshore," said Capt. Travis Simmons, a five-year veteran of Dolphin Docks.



ILLUMINATED WATERS: Night fishing near Gulf rigs can be both cool and productive. Photo by Scott Sommerlatte.

"We'll begin running 60- and 80-hour offshore trips to the floating rigs 130 miles offshore of the Port Aransas jetties within the next week or so," he said. Hard-fighting tuna will be the target fish of these excursions.

Swordfishing is also a common night activity for anglers with the proper means and equipment, since often in the heat of the summer, the southeast winds

See Night, Page 9

Relief is just a needle away

A fast rise from the depths puts pressure on fish to survive

BY CRAIG NYHUS

Summertime fishing can be excellent for red snapper offshore and for striped bass inland.

However, it often involves fish-

ing at depths of 100 feet. The stress to a fish brought up from the depths results in increased pressure which in turn

increases the volume in the swim bladder of the fish.

This may require deflating the swim bladder of the fish to ensure the survival of any released fish.

"The inflated swim bladder is definitely an issue offshore, especially with red snapper, which must be at least 16 inches to keep," said Capt. Dennis Lugg of Port Aransas. "We typically deflate the bladder on all of the fish we release."

"It's crucial. The snapper won't survive without it," said Kyle

Spiller, Ecosystem Leader with Texas Parks and Wildlife for the Upper Laguna Madre.

Fish adjust their buoyancy to maintain their position in the water column by the use of the swim bladder.

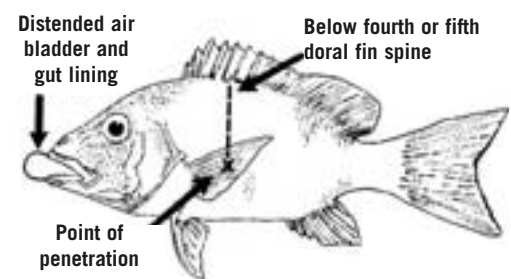
"When the fish comes up quickly in the water column, the increased pressure causes the swim bladder to inflate,"

Spiller said. "The fish isn't able to displace the gas, and the released fish will remain on or come back to the surface."

Boyles Law, a basic law of physics, provides the answers to the amount of increased volume in the bladder. For example, a swim bladder with a volume of 0.25 liters in a fish at a depth of 66 feet will increase to 0.75 liters at the surface.

"Striped bass from the depths are already stressed," said John

See Pressure, Page 9



— Illustration by TPW

Rattlin' along the coast

Cork manufacturers make new sounds to attract fish



By DAVID SIKES

Pick up any coastal fishing report in Texas and likely the term "popping cork or rattling float" will be there.

It's been this way for some time now. But the evolution of this angling tool has expanded the ways saltwater anglers use the innovation.

Time was each of these familiar phrases meant roughly the same thing to most anglers. Nowadays, a dozen or more of today's floats fit these labels. Each produces a sound and each helps attract fish and anglers alike.

What separates rattling floats from popping corks is simple.

Rattling floats generally use beads to create percussion, while popping corks produce sound with a concave shape that works like a popping plug lure against the water's surface. Regardless of type, each of these floats requires anglers to work them like a lure.

And there are two distinct categories of rattling floats. The Alameda Rattling Float and its knockoffs are hollow plastic shells with BBs inside. And the Mansfield Mauler style features a foam float that slides on a thin metal rod, onto which metal beads are strung to create a clacking noise.

Bill Brown of Corpus Christi began putting the rattle in his Alameda Floats in 1978. But the basic shape — cone with concave top — had been used for topwater plugs and floats for decades.

Originally, Brown inserted BBs in his smaller floats to add weight. But the former Navy sonar technician realized the sound he had created was similar to the clicking noise made by a school of shrimp under water.

This could explain the overall success of rattling floats.

Brown's theory was tested when brown tide, an algae bloom that creates off-color bay water, bloomed in Laguna Madre around 1990. Sales rose during the seven-year algal bloom as anglers realized the rattle gave them an edge in tainted water. Live shrimp under an Alameda Rattler remains among the most popular angling methods on the Texas Coast.

Another Texan, Bob Fuston, began selling his Mansfield Mauler in 1985. Its popularity resulted in the creation of similar products, such as the Cajun Thunder and more recently the Lindy, now Old Bayside Paradise Popper, which improved the product's durability with a titanium wire that resists kinks and bending.

The Alameda Rattler and a certain version of the Paradise Popper com-



SKIMMING THE SURFACE: An Old Bayside Paradise Popper creates a unique sound. A variety of sound-producing popping corks are getting widespread use with lures in salt water. Photos by David J. Sams.

bine a concave shape with a rattle to create an even richer surface racket.

Whether it's a good hard jerk or a subtle twitch, fishing with any of these floats generally is not a passive activity, regardless of shape. "That's part of the attraction," said longtime Upper Laguna Madre guide Noe Garza, who has made a living using live shrimp under Alameda Rattlers. The required motion keeps anglers visually focused on the float and on fishing, which enhances success, Garza said.

Versatility has helped expand the use of these floats. Once considered a live bait tool exclusively, today's rattling floats are part of the artificial lure angler's arsenal. Some of the lures found dangling beneath an oval foam float include D.O.A. imitation shrimp, a tandem rig marketed as a Speculizer and other names in Louisiana. D.O.A. makes its own version called a Deadly Combo.

But any soft plastic will do. In Louisiana, it's common to use a

Cajun Thunder float in tandem with an auger-tail grub.

In Texas and beyond, scented soft plastic lures such as the Berkley Gulp! combined with either a Mansfield Mauler-type float or an Alameda Rattler-style float are becoming popular among anglers seeking trout and redbfish. This use has given new life to the rattling float, according to tackle dealers.

David Sikes writes about the outdoors for the Corpus Christi Caller-Times.

Pressure

Continued from Page 8

Moczygemba, a TPW biologist at the Lake Texoma Fisheries Station. "The thermocline is at about 35 feet this time of year, they stay deep in cooler water, and they aren't eating well."

TPW no longer recommends deflating the swim bladder of stripers. "Only the most sophisticated anglers and guides had the equipment and expertise, and while the fish went down initially, often due to the stress they still didn't make it," he said. "The handling of the fish caused additional stress, and especially secondary infections."

The department recommends that once the larger stripers are caught from deep water, the fishermen move to more shallow water to catch smaller fish. "We emphasize minimal handling of all fish caught, and the use of wet hands or towels when handling the fish," Moczygemba said.

Oklahoma also urges caution once the two legal stripers — more than 20 inches — are caught.

The Department of Wildlife

Conservation issued recommendations for releasing striped bass in the summer, including fishing as shallow as possible, using circle hooks when baitfishing, releasing the fish outside the boat to reduce handling stress and — as a last resort — deflating the swim bladder.

A number of methods may be used to deflate the swim bladder.

Called "fizzing" by some, a fish can be depressurized by inserting a No. 18-gauge needle under a scale and into the body cavity to puncture the bladder.

"I use a sharp stainless-steel rod that originally was a shift cable on an outdoor motor," Lugg said. "We punch a little hole right behind the pectoral fin base and the fish disappear real quick."

While methods of deflating the swim bladder

vary, the location of the insertion does not. The object needs to be inserted at the base of the pectoral fin so as not to contact any vital organs.

Offshore, the process appears to be working. "Nearly everyone out on the rigs is doing it now," Lugg said. "It's very seldom I see a snapper on the surface."

Craig Nyhus is publisher/editor of the Lone Star Outdoor News.

'We punch a little hole right behind the pectoral fin base and the fish disappear real quick.'

— Capt. Dennis Lugg

Night

Continued from Page 8

lie down long enough for the Gulf to become eerily calm.

The owner and crew of Hot Rod, a 56-foot Viking out of Rockport, spend their spare nights swordfishing.

The winners of the annual Poco Bueno tournament held in Port O'Connor reported catching swordfish off a drill ship that sits in a thousand feet of water.

One of the boats dedicated to

swordfishing on the Texas coast is the Booby Trap, operated by Capt. Brett Holden, who has been swordfishing since 1990.

Booby Trap is a private vessel that fishes up to five days a week and reported catches of 24 billfish in three weeks. Ten of the fish were swordfish, five were keeper fish and the biggest fish weighed in at 130 pounds.

When fishing for "swordys," Holden drift-fishes two to four hooks baited with 2-pound squid or live blue runners illuminated with saline lights.

The multiple baits are fished at dif-

ferent depths, sometimes using as much as 10 pounds of weight to keep the bait down.

Of the 10 swordfish caught on Booby Trap this year, three were caught at less than 20-feet, four at 150 feet and three at 300 feet.

Holden believes the phase of the moon is a major factor in determining which baits get bit. "It seems like with a full moon, we're catching them right on top," he said. "But on the dark moon, we're catching them down deep."

Capt. Peter Young is a freelance writer and first mate aboard the Cherokee out of Port Aransas.

Hybrids

Continued from Page 8

rest.

He's been using live shad. "But if we get into them schooling we'll throw phantom baits or a 2-ounce slab," he said. "Or we throw a Zara spook."

At Lake Conroe, just north of Houston, Carl Bostick of Wethook Guide Service said the hybrid and white populations are great this year. "We're doing a lot of trolling

for them, with spoons and spinners back behind some kind of hellbender or jet divers," he said.

On Richland Chambers, Shore was throwing top-water crankbaits. "Almost everything is getting caught between 6 and 7:30 a.m.," he said. "Later in the day, you'll use slabs, go deep."

The hybrid is deeper bodied than the striper, and its stripes are more distinct than the white bass. Most anglers use the tooth patches at the back of the tongue — the hybrid has two, like the striper — or stripes to make the proper identification

for bag limits.

In the Texas hill country, TPW stocks both Georgetown and Walter E. Long lakes with the fighting hybrids. According to Marcos De Jesus, fisheries biologist with TPW in San Marcos, Walter Long may be the better bet right about now.

"I was down there yesterday," he said, "and they were schooling in the middle. If you find those schoolers, it could be a fun time."

Diana Kunde is a freelancer based in Arlington.

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ON THE MOVE

Grizzly roars in with new features

Fuel-injected 700FI heightens adventure in high-tech climbing

PETER B MATHIESEN

If you plan to buy an ATV this year and haven't, then this is your lucky day. Yamaha has just released the new Grizzly 700FI.

Now, the old 660 Grizzly was far from a disappointment. Without question, it had the most indestructible transmission in the ATV world. And its excellent downhill braking with low gearing and locker, positioned the bike as the technical climber of the industry.

However, like all beasts, it did require some skill and a little strength to push the bike to its limits. The 660 was not an ideal choice for an 145-pound person with limited riding skills, although it was notably more manageable than its similar sized competitors.

To be clear, this new bike changes everything. The combination of technical refinements and practical engineering gives performance that doesn't just lead the current field of ATVs, it sets the bar much higher.

The list of new features is extensive. To start, the new 686 cc 4-stroke engine is fuel-injected and has been recentered in a lower position, creating better balance and notably less vibration. The 5.3-gallon gas tank also has been lowered and centered. With the addition of fuel injection, the range of the bike's full tank is now an impressive 100 miles for the average trail rider.

Other innovations include a refined independent suspension that



TERRAIN CONTROL: The Grizzly 700FI comes equipped with a long list of improvements, including power steering for the first time. Photo by Frank Hoppen.

has a 5-inch wider frame spread than the older model, making tagging stumps and rocks with your arms a much less frequent experience. The seat has six more inches of foam, and the brake handlebars are set slightly closer so they are easier to reach and control. The brakes are larger, stay cooler and respond more evenly.

The U-joints are gone. The 700 FI

has direct shaft-driven connections, eliminating the old cranky joints, improving power transfer to the drive shafts, reducing noise and significantly dropping vibration. When combined with the new fuel-injected engine, it's no surprise this 700FI is dead dog fast.

That's an impressive list of improvements. However, the most

remarkable innovation on the 700 FI is the first-time power steering that makes this ATV a completely new riding experience.

The difference is overwhelming. After a long day of technical riding, I never jammed my wrist, had no numbness in my hands and was far less fatigued. Even the time spent backing the bike up to reposition for

an approach was dramatically reduced.

Don't think that all these refinements have desensitized your feeling of the road, rocks, logs or stumps. In fact, the bike changes the aggressive trail riding game to the point of allowing a rider to engage in more intense terrain choices than past riding experience skills may have permitted. Of course the locker and downhill transmission braking is still the gold standard in off-road performance.

This bike's comfort and performance is to date unmatched. I believe it will send other manufacturers scrambling to keep up. The Grizzly 700FI may just be the beginning of the golden age of the ATV. Yes...I love this bike. MSRP \$7998.00 <http://www.yamaha-motor.com/outdoor/products/lifestylehome/home.aspx>

What Other Say:

"The next generation Grizzly 700FI is certainly a force to be reckoned with in the ultra-competitive big bore utility quad segment."

— Lance Schwartz, *ATVscene.com*

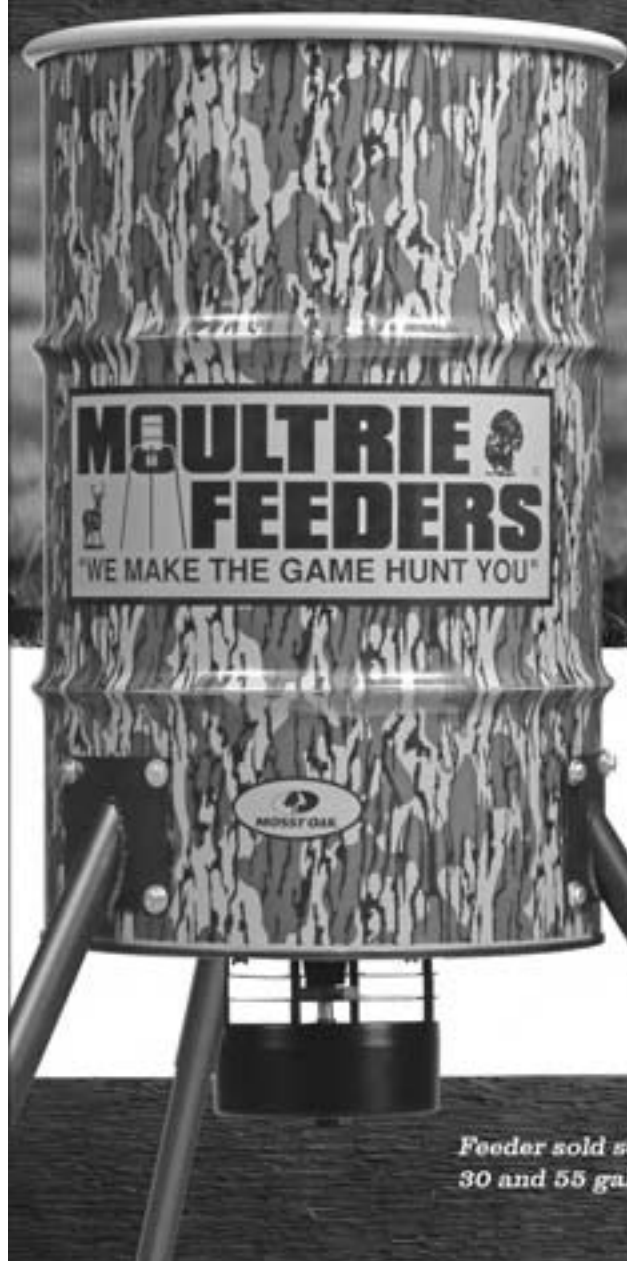
"The 2007 Yamaha Grizzly 700FI's Electronic Power Steering system could be one of the most notable ATV innovations ever."

— Staff report, *ATV Magazine*

Peter B. Mathiesen has written about automobiles and ATVs for eight years for Field & Stream magazine.

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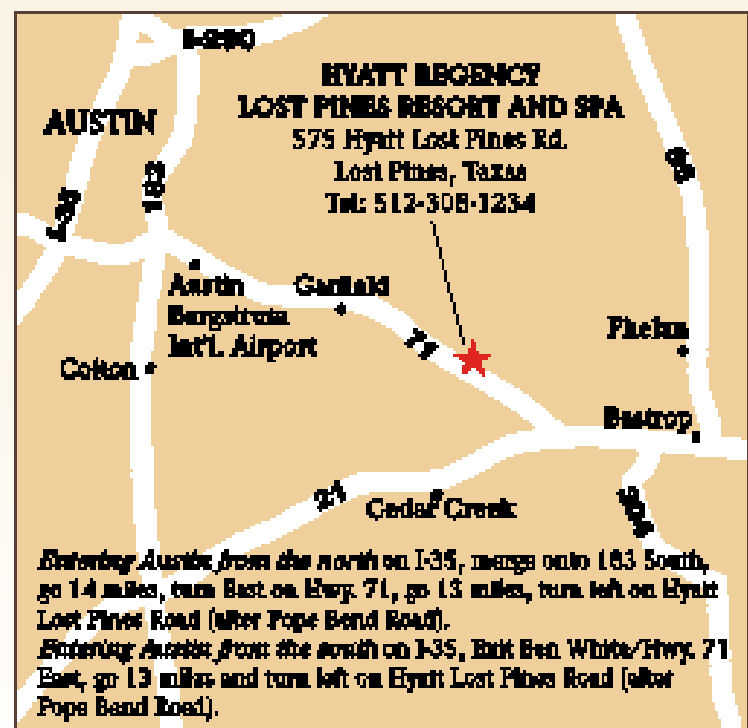
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ext. 205, or
ksellers@tpwf.org



HUNTING SEASON 2006-2007



Sunrise/Sunset September 2006 - February 2007

AccuWeather.com®

September			October			November			December			January			February		
Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Date	Sunrise	Sunset
01 (Fri)	7:05 AM	7:51 PM	01 (Sun)	7:22 AM	7:14 PM	01 (Wed)	7:43 AM	6:41 PM	01 (Fri)	8:08 AM	6:27 PM	01 (Mon)	8:25 AM	6:39 PM	01 (Thu)	8:20 AM	7:05 PM
02 (Sat)	7:06 AM	7:50 PM	02 (Mon)	7:23 AM	7:13 PM	02 (Thu)	7:44 AM	6:40 PM	02 (Sat)	8:08 AM	6:27 PM	02 (Tue)	8:26 AM	6:39 PM	02 (Fri)	8:19 AM	7:06 PM
03 (Sun)	7:06 AM	7:49 PM	03 (Tue)	7:23 AM	7:11 PM	03 (Fri)	7:45 AM	6:39 PM	03 (Sun)	8:09 AM	6:27 PM	03 (Wed)	8:26 AM	6:40 PM	03 (Sat)	8:18 AM	7:07 PM
04 (Mon)	7:07 AM	7:48 PM	04 (Wed)	7:24 AM	7:10 PM	04 (Sat)	7:45 AM	6:38 PM	04 (Mon)	8:10 AM	6:27 PM	04 (Thu)	8:26 AM	6:41 PM	04 (Sun)	8:18 AM	7:07 PM
05 (Tue)	7:07 AM	7:46 PM	05 (Thu)	7:24 AM	7:09 PM	05 (Sun)	7:46 AM	6:38 PM	05 (Tue)	8:11 AM	6:27 PM	05 (Fri)	8:26 AM	6:42 PM	05 (Mon)	8:17 AM	7:08 PM
06 (Wed)	7:08 AM	7:45 PM	06 (Fri)	7:25 AM	7:08 PM	06 (Mon)	7:47 AM	6:37 PM	06 (Wed)	8:12 AM	6:27 PM	06 (Sat)	8:26 AM	6:42 PM	06 (Tue)	8:16 AM	7:09 PM
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08 (Fri)	7:09 AM	7:43 PM	08 (Sun)	7:26 AM	7:05 PM	08 (Wed)	7:49 AM	6:36 PM	08 (Fri)	8:13 AM	6:28 PM	08 (Mon)	8:26 AM	6:44 PM	08 (Thu)	8:15 AM	7:11 PM
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29 (Fri)	7:21 AM	7:16 PM	29 (Sun)	7:41 AM	6:43 PM	29 (Wed)	8:06 AM	6:27 PM	29 (Fri)	8:25 AM	6:37 PM	29 (Mon)	8:21 AM	7:02 PM			
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			31 (Tue)	7:42 AM	6:42 PM				31 (Sun)	8:25 AM	6:38 PM	31 (Wed)	8:20 AM	7:04 PM			

Graphic provided by AccuWeather, Inc ©2006

Dove days on the horizon



INCOMING: Sitting by a stock tank is one of the most productive areas to harvest doves during a dry season. Photo by David J. Sams.

Hunters await results of heat, lack of rain

BY BINK GRIMES

All of Texas welcomed the June and July rains that fell in buckets in part of the state.

Despite the floods, the 10 months of drought-like conditions prior to this summer might be the difference between hot shotgun barrels and barren skies when the Sept. 1 dove opener commences.

"With the state so dry, it is not going to be as good as it has been," said Jay Roberson, Texas Parks and Wildlife's dove program leader. "The breeding survey we conducted in May indicated a reduced breeding population, down somewhere around 18 percent."

Those numbers may appear bleak to the shotgunner, however, Roberson said he is not too con-

cerned.

"South Texas and Central Texas will be a little tougher for mourning doves. Hunters might have to scout harder to get their birds."

Seventy-five percent of the birds hunted during the first two weeks of dove season, according to Roberson, are native Texas birds.

Then, as the season progresses, migrant birds from Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and the Dakotas begin to trickle across the Red River.

If hunting is a bit lackluster early in the season, hunters should be aware that new birds are on the way with each passing front.

All indications from northern states cite good nesting success during the peak of nesting which occurs in May. Iowa, Minnesota, Montana and Wyoming contribute

birds to Texas hunters, too.

Roberson estimates as many as 40 percent of the birds hunted in Texas

'Those birds hatched in May and June are the young birds we are hunting in September.'

— JAY ROBERSION

migrate from another state.

"We are never shooting just Texas birds," he said. "The northern birds

begin arriving in force after the first 10 days of September."

On average, mourning doves nest close to three times per year. Roberson said TPW biologists have proof that some doves nest as many as five times per year.

It takes 30-33 days to hatch an egg, and, according to biologists, the peak of the Texas breeding cycle occurs in May.

"Those birds hatched in May and June are the young birds we are hunting in September," Roberson said.

The High Plains is one of the few regions of the state where the ratio of young to old mourning doves is considered good. Roberson expects traditional areas around watering holes to be strong players.

In Central Texas, expect the hunting to be fair to good. Hunters may

have to work harder and hit the roads to scout to have good shoots.

The Blackland Prairies and Post Oak regions look promising with lots of food sources including sunflowers and waste grain fields.

Roberson said many of the migrant birds often remain in these regions when food supplies are steady.

Expect the South Texas region to see less mourners than a year ago; however, traditionally, the white-winged dove numbers often make up for the lack of mourning doves.

"The heat and lack of rain in South Texas has had an affect on dove nesting," Roberson said. "The bright spot is the region has received some rain, which should help food sources."

Bink Grimes is a freelance writer and photographer.



STANDING BY: A white-tailed buck comes to a clearing in the brush at Choke Canyon State Park near Three Rivers. Public standby hunting opportunities are frequently available at the last minute. Photo by David J. Sams.

Beating the Odds

NOT getting drawn for a public hunt can improve your chances

BY LARRY D. HODGE

It's that time of year again — the time when application booklets for drawings for public hunts go into the mail, and thousands of Texas hunters fill out applications and wait for good news.

For most, the good news never comes. Instead, a postcard bearing the dreaded message "Notice of Non-selection" arrives in the mailbox, and the would-be hunter gives up hope and dreams of next year.

Actually, getting that notice of non-selection can actually improve your chances of going on that hunt—if you know what to do: Go standby.

Look at it this way. When you enter the computer drawing, you compete with anywhere from a few dozen to a few thousand other hunter hopefuls. But when you go standby, you compete only with the people who show up at the hunt location—which may

be only a half-dozen or so, and there may be more than one hunt position available. Your odds of being drawn may be 1 in 6 or 1 in 10 instead of 1 in who-knows-how-many.

Last season I went standby and got drawn for not one but two hunts on the Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area, which is only 30 miles from my home.

The first was an antlerless deer/feral hog hunt. A week before the hunt date, I called the WMA and asked if there would be standby positions available. Often the WMA manager does not receive the list of paid hunters from Austin headquarters until a week or so before the hunt, so it doesn't pay to call sooner. Told there would be positions, I made plans to be at the area by 10 a.m. on the first day of the hunt to put my name in the drawing. Eleven others were there to do the same, so my odds were 50-50. I was one of six drawn. The feral hog sausage was delicious.

During spring turkey season I got lucky again. This time there were six of us and only one position available, but I was lucky enough to pull my own name out of the box. No turkey resulted, but a great time was had sharing 10,000 acres of woods with only three other people.

By all means register for the computer drawing for the hunts you want, since you get a preference point each time you are not drawn, improving your chances of being drawn in the future. Also, pay attention to statistics in the applications booklet on how many people applied for the hunt last season. You may improve your chances of getting drawn by applying for less-popular hunts.

Finally, be sure to save your copy of the applications booklet. On some hunts, no standby positions are made available, and these are noted in the individual hunt listings.

Larry D. Hodge is Information Specialist at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center.

New products for 2006

SCOPE IT OUT:

Nikon's Buckmaster Riflescope features the company's new Bullet Drop Compensating reticle, which is designed and calibrated to provide fast, simple aiming points for various shot distances. Along with the BDC reticle, the sleek riflescope includes such features as quick-focus eyepieces and a handy, side-focus adjustment knob. The waterproof and fogproof riflescopes are available in 4-12x50, 4.5-14x40 and 6-18x40 models. Its 4.5-14x40 SF matte riflescope with Nikon's new BDC reticle sells for about \$300. For more information, visit www.nikonportoptics.com or call (800) 248-6846.



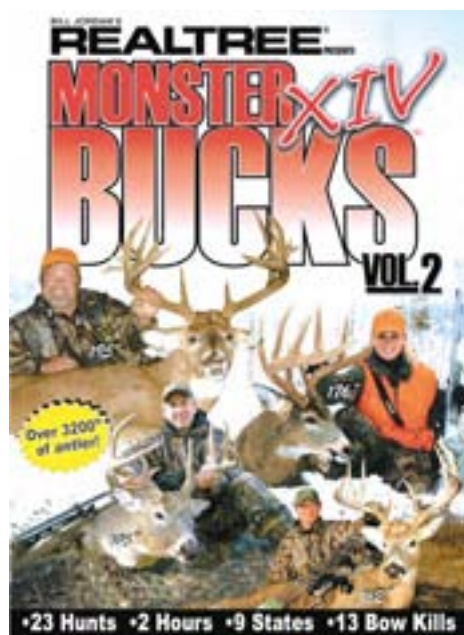
EXTRA LARGE: GMC's 2007 Yukon XL is for outdoorsmen who want to travel in comfort. Designed for those who need to pull heavy loads or haul lots of gear (and hunting buddies), the Yukon is a well-equipped, stylish SUV. Among its features are third row two-passenger seating, dual-zone climate control, OnStar service and 12-volt power outlets in cargo area and instrument panel. Its towing capacity is 8,000 pounds (on 4WD with Vortec 5300 V8 engine). It gets 18 to 21 miles per gallon on the highway. The XL starts at \$37,990 with cloth interior and \$41,590 with leather interior. For specifications, visit www.gmc.com.



X MARKS THE SPOT: The X'Lander Blind is a full-feature equipment backpack and ground blind combo. Weighting 15-pounds, it's easy to transport. As a backpack, it holds up to four dozen silhouettes or more than 200 rag decoys. It unfolds into a 26-inch by 84-inch by 14-inch blind. Features include a built-in scabbard for transporting a shotgun, an anodized aluminum frame, waterproof polyurethane coating and padded head and gun rest. Available in Mossy Oak Shadow Grass, Advantage Max 4 and Field Brown, it costs about \$350. For information, visit www.kolpin.com or call (877) 956-5746.



GREAT TIMING: The new Pro Magnum feeder kit from Moultrie features all-metal construction and a built-in varmint guard to keep uninvited critters from stealing the feed. The units, which use two six-volt batteries, can be timed for up to six feedings a day. The feeder kits cost about \$100. The Pro Magnum feeders also are available as complete units (a 30-gallon feeder costs about \$260; the 50-gallon model is about \$300). For more information, call (800) 653-3334 or visit www.moultriefeeders.com.



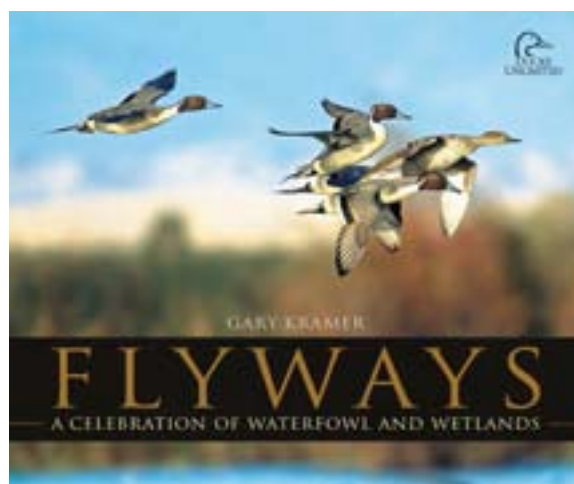
MORE HUNTS, BIGGER BUCKS: Monster Bucks XIV, Volume 2 will take you with Team Realtree members as they travel the best giant hotspots. The two-hour DVD captures 13 bow hunts, eight rifle hunts and two muzzleloader hunts. Watch as Jesse Morehead gets a 195-inch giant in Illinois, Bill Jordan does his thing in Texas, Iowa and Montana, and country music artist Rhett Akins arrows a nice Texas deer, plus more. The DVD costs about \$15. Visit www.realtree.com for retailers or call (800) 474-8733 to order by phone.



A BETTER VIEW: Steiner's Peregrine Binoculars are designed for hunting in the most severe conditions. The lightweight, waterproof binoculars deliver brilliant images through a wide field of view. They feature a multi-coated lens system, phase-corrected roof prisms and nitrogen-pressurized, waterproof housings. Available in 8 and 10X 42 MM and 8.5 X 50 MM, the Peregrines boast comfortable ergonomic styling in a non-reflective forest green finish. The three models range from about \$850 to \$1,000. For information, visit www.steiner-binoculars.com or call (800) 257-7742.



FOLLOWING FOWL: FLYWAYS, A Celebration of Waterfowl and Wetlands, published by Ducks Unlimited, takes readers on a photographic journey across North America, following waterfowl and other wildlife as they travel along these ancestral travel routes. Author Gary Kramer is a former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge manager and award-winning wildlife photographer. The 136-page coffee table book is available in a soft cover edition at www.ducks.org or www.garykramer.net for \$26.90. An author-signed copy is available from the author for \$34.90. Call (530) 934-3873 for more information.



QUIET POWER: Bad Boy Buggies has introduced a stretch model. Like the original Bad Boy, the 148-inch-long stretch version boasts an all-electric four-wheel drive with reverse. It's quiet and environmentally friendly. And, with 31 HP, it offers enough power to traverse the toughest terrain. Use it to get to a favorite hunting spot, to haul supplies or more. It comes in Realtree Hardwoods camo and costs about \$9,950, depending on options. For more information, visit www.badboybuggiesofTexas.com or call (817) 723-1463.



Signups set for Public Hunting Program



APPLY NOW: Public mule deer hunts are available at some west Texas wildlife management areas. The deer gun application deadline is Sept. 7.

For more than 50 years, Texas Parks and Wildlife has been offering quality, affordable hunting experiences through the special drawings for hunts offered through the department's Public Hunting Program.

During the upcoming hunting seasons, more than 5,000 hunters will be selected through random computer drawings allowing access to some of the state's high-quality managed wildlife habitat.

Wildlife management areas, state parks and leased private property will be offering quality supervised hunts for white-tailed deer, mule deer, pronghorn, javelina, alligator, exotics, feral hog and spring turkey.

Through an application process, hunters can select from among 28 different hunt categories and choose a preferred hunt date and location.

The application fee for adult applicants in most of the public hunt drawings is \$3 per person on the

application. Successfully drawn hunters pay an additional Special Permit fee (\$75-125 in most cases) for a one-to-four-day hunt.

Application deadlines

Alligator - Aug. 2
 Pronghorn Antelope - Aug. 17
 Bowhunters - Aug. 17
 Bighorn Sheep - Aug. 31
 Deer gun - Sept. 7

Information and applications for Special Permit hunts are available on the Public Hunting Web site. Application booklets are currently being mailed to hunters who applied for special permit drawn hunts last year. The booklets will also be available at TPW law enforcement offices in late July. Information about Special Permit drawn hunts can be found online or by calling toll free (800) 792-1112.

— A Texas Parks and Wildlife report.

Study targets reduction in wildlife/vehicle collisions

Researchers with the Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University have begun work on a comprehensive Federal Highway Administration study aimed at reducing the number of collisions between wildlife and vehicles.

Nationally, the federal government estimates roughly 200 people are killed and more than 15,000 injured annually from collisions with wildlife and domestic animals.

WTI's study will be the first of its kind to be presented to Congress, according to Pat McGowen, a WTI research engineer and one of the study's leaders.

The study will include a manual to

help transportation planners across the nation reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.

"It's a huge issue," McGowen said. "There are various strategies that have been tried in different states and around the globe; it's our intent to analyze and distill this information to make it easy for transportation practitioners to use."

McGowen and Huijser will look at studies targeting increased safety — such as fencing to keep animals off roads and improving habitat connectivity using under- and overpasses to allow wildlife to cross roads safely.

"There are several new areas as well," Huijser said. "There are new technologies for animal detection systems; there

is a strong interest in cost-benefit analysis of different mitigation measures and there is also an interest in understanding a new road as part of a larger network, not as just an isolated project."

Systems that detect animals on roads and then alert drivers with a signal have not been extensively studied.



"There is only one published study on this, from Switzerland," Huijser said. "It reported a reduction in collisions of 82 percent. That is very encouraging, but much needs to be learned as to how that would relate to signage, a different driving culture and different animal species."

— A Montana State University report.




COSTLY COLLISION: There are 1.5 million auto claims in the U.S involving deer — causing more than \$1.1 billion in property damage.

INTRODUCING THE JEFF FOILES SIGNATURE SERIES

We are pleased to announce an exclusive partnership with expert waterfowler and maker of World Championship calls Jeff Foiles. Foiles brings that hell-beat attitude we're after and will play an integral role in the transformation of the FA Brand into an all encompassing waterfowling company, he simply knows the game. The final Approach line of premium layout blinds will expand to include accessories and decoys under the Jeff Foiles Signature Series that will provide hunters with the gear needed for success. The foiles Signature Series products combine Jeff's expertise with the quality and innovation you've come to expect from final Approach. OH YEAH.

BECAUSE OUT THERE...
THERE ARE NO DAYS OFF.



WWW.FABRAND.COM KOLPIN OUTDOORS, INC. 677-8-KOLPIN

17TH ANNUAL STATE OF TEXAS ANGLER'S RODEO

Five anglers land STAR redfish honors

Just seven weeks into the 17th annual State of Texas Angler's Rodeo, the big thrill has been in the Texas Ford Dealers Tagged Redfish Division. Nine anglers have caught tagged redfish and of those nine, five have hit the fishing "jackpot." Steven Aaron Hortsman of Houston, Lauren Marchese of Baytown, 14-year old Luke Crane of Victoria and Joe Palermo of Port Isabel have very exciting stories to share surrounding their catches.

**1ST WINNER, AARON HORSTMANN
OF HOUSTON CAUGHT
TAG NO. T629 ON JUNE 3**

I made one cast with a free shrimp hoping to pull out a speck. Much to my surprise, I had landed a nice 25-inch redfish. My friend Diane was the first to notice the tag once the fish had hit the deck. She yelled and screamed and I soon saw the red tag on the fish and quickly

threw the fish in the cooler. After a few minutes of celebrating we quickly made our way back to the boat ramp.

**2ND WINNER, LAUREN MARCHESE
OF BAYTOWN CAUGHT
TAG NO. T631 ON JUNE 5**

Being a member of the CCA for many years, I've always dreamed of catching one of the tagged redfish. I felt a bite on my line and then the battle began. We figured it was a redfish by its extreme pull, but a little ways into the fight we got the fish to surface and I could see the tag in its side. I shouted, "IT HAS A TAG!!!" The redfish weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces and was 24 1/2 inches long. Texas STAR tag T631, a winner.

**3RD WINNER, LUKE CRAIN
OF BAYTOWN CAUGHT
TAG NO. T626 ON JUNE 7**

I went fishing with my dad and

sister out to the Spillway in the Trinity Bay. We caught two nice size keeper reds and as my dad got things ready to leave (around 10:30 a.m.), I begged him to let me cast one more time. I cast out and something hit it, but I lost the fish. There was still half of a shrimp left on my line so I cast out again. All of a sudden my cork went under. I fought with this fish for several minutes and finally got it in the boat. When we turned it over there it was, a red tag. I could not believe my eyes. I started jumping up and down in excitement.

**4TH WINNER, STEVEN GRAHMANN
OF VICTORIA CAUGHT
TAG NO. T607 ON JULY 6**

It was nearing 4 o'clock and my wife was urging me to leave, due to us both having to work the next day. We decide we would try one last spot near a pier that was in front of the bay house my wife's

aunt and uncle had sold the previous year. We were just about ready to leave when my rod doubled over in the rod holder. As I reeled the fish to within 4-5 ft of the boat, I noticed something sticking out of the side of it near its dorsal fin. After landing the fish, my heart about stopped when I saw 2006 CCA STAR on the tag. My wife about jumped out of the boat with excitement.

**5TH WINNER, JOE PALERMO OF
PORT ISABEL CAUGHT
TAG NO. T686 ON JULY 14**

I left Port Isabel at 6:30 a.m. Heading north of the big bridge, I saw a bunch of bait fish jumping out of the water. I stopped at this spot and put out some rods to fish the bottom on live piggy perch. At 9 a.m., I caught the tagged redfish and I had limited out for the day. I immediately headed to Jim's Pier, where I have been fishing out of for

more years than I can recall, and shared the great news!

Each angler will be awarded a 22-foot Blue Wave boat, Mercury EFI 150, Magnum trailer and a Ford "Texas Edition" Super Cab XLT 4-door truck to haul their boats to and from their favorite fishing locales — except for 14-year-old Luke Crane. But, don't feel bad for Luke, Ford did not forget about him. In lieu of the truck, he will be receiving a \$20,000 college scholarship to go with his boat.

As usual, we have had four anglers who were fortunate enough to catch a tagged red, but not so fortunate since they neglected to enter STAR before going fishing and missed out on a \$50,000 prize package. That means of the sixty redfish released, there are still fifty-one out there still swimming.

**CCA State of Texas Angler's
Rodeo (STAR)**

LEADERS AS OF: 7-24-06

Upper Coast Speckled Trout

Brea Wright of Bacliff
9 lbs. 5 oz.

Middle Coast Speckled Trout

Todd Fuechec of El Campo
9 lbs. 2 oz.

Lower Coast Speckled Trout

Wayne Moseley of Adkins
9 lbs. 11 oz.

Offshore Division

Kingfish

Brian Gaudin of Houston
54 lbs. 7 oz.

Dorado

Brett Holden of Richmond
45 lbs. 13 ozs.

Ling (Cobia)

Branch Zuniga of Pharr
75 lbs. 10 ozs.

Inshore Division

Flounder

Timothy Pearson of Seabrook
9 lbs. 10 ozs.

Sheepshead

Rodolfo Ibarra of Baytown
8 lbs. 15 ozs.

Gafftop

Patrick Harwood of San Antonio
9 lbs. 4 ozs.

REDFISH Division

Steven Hortsman of Houston
Lauren Marchese of Baytown
Luke Crane of Baytown
Steven Grahmann of Houston
Joe Palermo of Port Isabel

StarKids Division

(ages 6-10)

Flounder

Taylor Shirley of LaPorte
3 lbs. 3 oz.

Sheepshead

Forrest Karl of Edna
7 lbs. 2 ozs.

Gafftop

Hunter Richbourg of Houston
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Teens Trout & Inshore Divisions
(ages 11-17)

Upper Coast Speckled Trout

Colton Krenek of Seabrook
6 lbs. 14 oz.

Middle Coast Speckled Trout

Jacob Brandt of Corpus Christi
7 lbs. 5 oz.

Lower Coast Speckled Trout

Joshua O'Banion of Baytown
7 lbs. 6 oz.

Flounder

Tyler Kolman of Seabrook
6 lbs. 1 oz.

Sheepshead

Jonathan Miller of Bacliff
6 lbs. 14 ozs.

Gafftop

Cason House of Rio Vista
6 lbs. 10 oz.

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Coyotes

Continued from Page 6

fawn to detect it by scenting. So it's usually a random event when coyotes find fawns. When you have good fawning cover and a lot of it, the coyote has a harder time detecting that prey."

Deer population management also can reduce the impact coyotes have on fawns. When sex ratios move closer toward a bal-

ance, breeding takes place over a narrower window of time because most, if not all, does will be bred on their first estrous cycle. This means that fawns will be dropped as a group in the same, short time period.

"This is known as the satiation principle," Leopold said. "When your management leads to a tighter fawn drop, the coyote can't respond effectively. But if breeding and thus the fawn drop is scattered over two or three months, the coyote is going to take a higher percentage of those fawns."

Coyote population control may be a fight

you may not want, according to the research.

"Coyotes are extremely social animals, and they form a rigid social hierarchy," Leopold said. "If you hit that population, it has the ability to respond very quickly to reduced numbers, and a female may crank out that maximum of 10 to 12 pups in a litter instead of two or three. You can worsen the problem."

Lindsay Thomas Jr. is the executive director of the Quality Deer Management Association.

'When you have good fawning cover and a lot of it, the coyote has a harder time detecting that prey.'

— BRUCE LEOPOLD

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Safety

Continued from Page 6

ago.

But, he added, "Texas is now one of the top states in the union that produces hunter-ed students. We're averaging about 33,000 a year."

Students age 12 and older are eligible to earn the state's hunter education certification.

It costs \$15 for the mandatory 10 hours of classroom instruction which are spread over two days. The state also offers a home-study course and a class on the Internet.

Students learn the safe handling of firearms and archery equipment, but they also learn about game laws, meat processing and hunting ethics.

Budding nimrods under age 12 aren't precluded from taking the course.

Towner Webster, 9, attended the recent class at Cabela's with his father, Stephen, who planned to get certified, mainly for his son's benefit.

"I'm not sure I'm going to enjoy hunting,"

said Stephen, a Fort Worth attorney. "But he's got an interest and it's something we can learn together.

"The thing that has impressed me more was the video showing re-enactments of accidents that have actually happened. That's what I want for him to get out of this.

"Like they say, you can't bring that bullet back once you pull the trigger."

The class at Cabela's was taught by David and Jeanette Hammonds of Fort Worth, who also teach it in Keller.

Jeanette said they generally hold several classes during the summer months and the final weeks leading to the fall hunting seasons.

David, a Marine Corps veteran who served in Vietnam, praised families like the Websters for taking the class together.

"It shows a commitment, that moms and dads are really interested in what's going on in a kid's life," he said. "I dearly love it."

To learn about hunter

education courses offered in your community, go to: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/hunter_education/

Bill Miller is a Fort Worth-based freelancer.

The Ten Commandments of Shooting Safety

- Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
- Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or a nocked arrow.
- Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond it.
- Unload firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use.
- Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition carefully.
- Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.
- Control your emotions when it comes to safety.
- Wear hearing and eye protection.
- Don't drink alcohol or take drugs before or while handling firearms or bow and arrows.
- Be aware of additional circumstances which require added caution and safety awareness.

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Sure shot

Continued from Page 1

season and increase the number in your bag.

1. Practice, practice, practice.

The experts agree that poor shooting is the No. 1 reason for such high crippling rates in waterfowl and dove hunting.

"The most important thing is to practice your shotgunning skills," said Terry Erwin, hunter education coordinator of the Texas Parks and Wildlife. "A lot of people will go out there opening day without having picked up their gun since they put it down at the end of last season."

Practice at a sporting clays course as often as possible throughout the year, not just the week before hunting season.

2. Know your limits.

The goal shouldn't be how many birds you shoot at, but how high your shooting percentage is. One sure way to improve accuracy is to wait for birds to come into gun range. Don't take the "macho" shot, trying to down a bird from half a football field away.

Learn how to judge distances, said Vicki Ash, professional shooting instructor at the OSP Shooting School in Houston.

"A 50- or 60-yard bird is too far. Let them come in or just take specific shots you know you can kill the bird with," she said.

One way to help you judge distances is to set your farthest decoy at the limit of your accuracy and don't shoot past it, Erwin said.

Good shotgunners are accurate up to 40 yards for waterfowl and 35 yards for dove. Anything past that is beyond the limits of most guns and loads.

3. Know your gun's limits.

Test your shotgun's pattern by shooting at a cardboard and paper target at varying distances up to 40 yards. If the pattern loses density or its densest penetration is low or off-center, you're too far away, or you may need to change the type of

choke or load you're using.

For nontoxic shot, Erwin recommends bismuth, tungsten or Hevi-shot in No. 4 or No. 2 for dove and duck, and BB for geese.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, there have been no significant changes in crippling rates since lead shot was banned for waterfowl hunting.

4. Pick out a single bird and aim for its head.

Don't shoot into a flock. Aim for a bird that's by itself. If the birds are flying together, focus on the bird at the rear of the flock, not the lead bird.

"Sometimes it's hard but you've got to pick out one specific bird and shoot at its head," Ash said. "Your eyes are going to go to the wings because that's the fastest moving thing in the picture, then they'll naturally go to the back. What you've got to do is make your eyes go to the head."

Hunters can practice that skill year-round by watching birds, she said.

One exception, when aiming at the head may miss, is when a duck, feet hanging, is facing you and dropping into the decoys. In that case you can aim low to hit its other vital organs, which are exposed in front.

5. Don't shoot at birds that are flying away.

If you miss, don't keep shooting and shooting as the bird flies off. You'll only wound it by shooting at its rear end.

"Once a duck turns don't shoot at him going away, his vital organs are protected," Erwin said. "For dove it's the same thing."

Lastly, limit the number of hunters in your party to four or fewer and take turns shooting to reduce confusion on who is shooting at what. And, preferably, hunt with a dog that is well-trained at retrieving downed birds.

Wes Smalling has more than a decade of experience as a writer and reporter.

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GAME WARDEN BLOTTER

GAME FISH USED AS BAIT

Wichita County Game Warden Pat Canan checked two fishermen while patrolling Lake Arrowhead for licenses and water safety equipment. He saw a fishing pole with a hook baited with some type of fish file. When Canan asked the fishermen about the bait, the operator of the boat tried to change the subject. One of the anglers finally admitted that the file was that of a freshwater drum. After inspecting the bait, Canan asked to see the drum that the file was taken from. The angler then pointed to a bait box that was in the boat. The box contained an 11-inch black bass with part of its side cut off. A citation was issued to the man for using game fish as bait, and a warning was issued for possession of undersized black bass. Cases pending.

NO ROOM FOR RATTLER AT THE INN

Tyler County Game Wardens Bryan Baronet and Bill Zappe responded to a call at the Woodville Inn that a timber rattlesnake was found in one of the hotel rooms. The wardens caught the snake and released it in the wild. The wardens also cited the person who rented the room on charges of possession of a protected snake.

JUST A STONE'S THROW AWAY FROM JAIL

Capt. Rod Ousley got a new windshield installed on his truck. About an hour after picking up his truck, a pickup raced passed him and veered into the median throwing rocks and debris onto the new windshield. The driver was stopped and failed all field sobriety tests. The driver was arrested on felony DWI charges. He had just been released from jail after serving eight years for DWI, and it was his eighth arrest for DWI.

18,300 POUNDS OF SHRIMP CONFISCATED

Jefferson County Game Warden Vu Nguyen and an intern patrolled the Gulf of Mexico for illegal shrimping activity last month. At 10:30 p.m. a shrimp boat was observed to be shrimping in closed season. The boat was

DOING THE FUNKY CHICKEN

While patrolling Lake Colorado City on July 4, Mitchell County Game Warden Randy Bullard and Howard County Game Warden Wayne Armstrong arrested a man on

BWI charges. The man admitted three times on video that he was too drunk to perform the tasks asked of him by Warden Armstrong. The combative and belligerent man told the DPS

trooper who transported him to jail that if he would just take the cuffs off of him he would whip that short game warden who made him stand on one leg and cluck like a chicken.

stopped, and while being escorted to shore, another boat was observed to be shrimping at 11:45 p.m. A nearby Coast Guard boat was asked to continue escorting the boat that had already been stopped while Nguyen went to check the second boat. Both shrimp boats were escorted into Sabine Pass, and a total of 18,300 pounds of shrimp were confiscated and sold. The boat captains were taken to Jefferson County Jail.

WARDEN WINS BIG

The Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers has named Steve Stapleton of Van Zandt County as Texas Game Warden of the Year. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission will recognize him Aug. 24.

THIEVES CAUGHT SLEEPING ON THE JOB

Game Warden Jon Kocian saw a vehicle parked under a bridge. There were two men with the vehicle and both appeared to be asleep. Kocian went to make contact with the men to make sure everything was OK. When he approached the vehicle, all the doors were open and in plain view in the backseat were a lot of tools. These tools matched the description of what was stolen from a residence earlier in the day. The officer identified himself as a state game warden, and the men did not respond. He then notified the sheriff's office. When the deputies arrived, they awakened the suspects, who were arrested on burglary of a habitation charges.

OPERATION LAREDO NETS SUSPECTS

Game wardens from throughout the state gathered at Zapata to par-

ticipate in Operation Laredo in July. During the first week of this operation, one boat and motor were seized. After a short pursuit, the occupants of the boat were able to evade arrest by fleeing into the brush on the Texas shoreline. However, the next day they were picked up by U.S. Border Patrol and detained until they could be interviewed by wardens Brad Meloni and David Murray. The officers filed three citations against the three violators for illegal commercial fishing and water safety violations. Also seized during the week were 3,925 feet of gill net, 225 feet of trotlines and 6 hoop nets. A total of nine citations were filed for water safety, sport fishing and commercial fishing violations.

MAN LIVES AFTER ROPE DOESN'T HOLD UP DURING SUICIDE JUMP

Lampasas Game Warden Jeff Hill responded to a call of a possible suicide in a remote area of Lampasas. Hill was a short distance from the location when the call came out and quickly located a man who had tied one end of a rope to a bridge and the other around his neck and jumped from the bridge. Hill found the man in the streambed with the rope still around his neck, but the end tied to the bridge had apparently come untied after he jumped. Hill called for EMS and administered first aid to the man, who lived but suffered numerous injuries that included a broken arm, broken pelvis, bumps, bruises and abrasions.

WOMAN PANICS AND CRASHES INTO FRIEND

Grayson County Game Warden Dale Moses worked a personal watercraft accident on Lake Texoma. A female was following 15 feet behind her friend when she

unexpectedly stopped in front of her. The woman panicked, let off the gas, and struck the left side of the friend's PWC, injuring the victim's leg and wrist. The woman was cited on charges of violating the 50-foot rule. Case pending.

I'M YOURS

Garza County Game Warden Benjie Smith, Motley County Game Warden Ted Davey and Crane County Game Warden Justin Jackson arrested a boat operator for BWI on Lake Alan Henry. After initial afloat tests, the suspect, who had been charged with DWI twice in the last year, refused to perform any tests. His only comment to Warden Smith was "Take me." Smith obliged.

CAR ERUPTS IN FLAMES ENGULFING MURDER SUSPECT

A man wanted for a double homicide that occurred in Kerrville was sighted driving on a dead-end road in far northwest Kerr County. As Kerr County Warden Steve Backor and a Kerr County deputy rolled up on the vehicle, the interior became engulfed in flames. When the warden busted a front window to see if anyone was inside, the fire intensified, driving the officers back. After the fire was eventually extinguished, the homicide suspect was found lying in the backseat, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. There was a gas can found in the front seat.

HE'D RATHER TAKE A DIP

Tarrant County Game Wardens Michael McCall and Ronald Mathis, while patrolling Eagle Mountain Lake, saw a pontoon boat being operated in an erratic manner. The officers initiated a water safety contact and found that the boat operator appeared to

be intoxicated. After the operator failed the on-water testing, he was taken to shore. After exiting the boat at the marina, the operator said that he was not going to jail and jumped into the lake. After a brief conversation, the boater agreed to come ashore to complete the testing. When Warden McCall attempted to test the man further, he said that he would not incriminate himself, refused to complete the tests and went and sat down on the curb. The man was arrested for BWI felony enhanced due to three previous convictions for DWI. The operator was found to be currently on felony probation for a DWI conviction in 2004. Case pending.

FIREWORKS GO BERSERK

Hardeman County Game Warden Matt Thompson, Wilbarger County Game Warden Dyke McMahan, and Capt. Sparks Burdett saw fireworks being shot from an anchored barge and exploding in the air. Something caught fire on the barge, and all of the fireworks started exploding. The six fireworks technicians abandoned ship, and the wardens rescued them and assisted in getting them back on the barge after it cooled off.

WOMAN DIES AFTER SLIDING INTO PARTY BARGE PROPELLER

While wardens were assisting in a fireworks perimeter control and processing a BWI this month, a 23-year-old woman slid down a slide on a party barge and was struck by the propeller. Travis County Sheriff's Department took over the scene as a possible drowning. Later TPW took over the investigation. From July 2-3, the Travis County dive team worked all day diving in the area for recovery of the body with no success. TPW began a dragging recovery operation that continued July 4, and at about 3:30 p.m., an article of clothing identified as the victim's and some hairs were snagged. After several more attempts in the area, the body was recovered at 5:25 p.m. The investigation continues into the boat accident. This particular boat rental company has had accidents in the past with their party barges.

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HEROES



PORTER ALLEN, 10, shows off her trophy axis buck, which she took at Joshua Creek Ranch on a hunting trip with her father, **RANDY ALLEN**, who is showing his trophy axis. Porter sat in the blind, waiting patiently for 15 hours for the right buck to come along.



TERRY WILSON, left, holds up a 19-pound, 38-inch long catfish he reeled in at Lake Sam Rayburn. His brother, **MICKEY WILSON**, caught a 4-pound catfish.



CHRIS LINDSAY caught this 55-inch Kingfish on a top-water lure while fishing on the north jetty at Port Aransas.



KELLI SELLERS holds a redfish she caught at Nine-Mile Hole, fishing with guide Billy Trimble.



DAN MARKEY displays his Aransas Bay water system record redfish. Certified by the Texas Parks and Wildlife, the fish was 44 1/4 inches and weighed 35 pounds. Markey was fishing at Copano Bay with guide Alan Beck from the Redfish Lodge.



JAKE ROBERTS, 2, and his proud dad, **SAM ROBERTS**, are all smiles. Jake caught his first fish, a brim, fishing the Blanco River.

Share an adventure

Want to share your great hunting or fishing photos with the *Lone Star Outdoor News* family? E-mail your photo, phone and caption information to editor@lonestaroutdoornews.com, or mail to: Heroes, *Lone Star Outdoor News*, 9304 Forest Lane, Suite 114 South, Dallas, TX, 75243.




ASHIA DE LA GARZA, 6, and her sister, **AYSSA**, 3, show one of several blue blue gill they caught fishing at a friend's pond. Ayssa made her first catch.



CLAY MAZURKIEWICZ, 9, of Lake Jackson, caught this 29-inch, 8-pound speckled trout at Cold Pass while fishing with his dad, **WESLEY MAZURKIEWICZ**.

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OUTDOOR DATEBOOK

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July & August: Lyndon B. Johnson State Park youth archery clinic every Thursday held in the baseball field from 6:30-8 p.m. Call (830) 644-2252 for more information.

July 29-30: Free seminars at Cabela's in Buda will be held during the weekend. They include: Fly-fishing hill country summer patterns, arrow fletching, feeder prep for fall, predator calling, surf-fishing the Texas coast, depthfinder basics and campfire cooking for kids. Visit www.cabelas.com for more information.

July 29: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Central Texas Chapter will hold a big game banquet at the Crawford VFW Hall. For tickets, contact Gary Bowdoin at (254) 486-2288.

July 29: Texas Women's Shooting Sports 2nd Annual Kids Camp for Big Brothers and Big Sisters will be held at 9 a.m. at Elm Fork Shooting Park. For more information, call (214) 349-0053 or visit www.txdiva.org.

August: The Texins Archery Club will hold an introductory archery class every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. For more information, contact clintmontgomery@tmail.com.

Aug. 3: Allen Ducks Unlimited Banquet will be held at the Allen Hilton Garden Inn. Call

Brad Hempkins at (972) 396-9797 for more information.

Aug. 4: Santa Fe DU Dinner will be held 6 p.m. at the Galveston County Fair Grounds. Contact Bud and Judy Cochran at (409) 925-4349 or tsoderquist@ducks.org.

Aug. 4-6: Grapevine Bass Pro Shops announces its Fall Classic seminars and events to help outdoorsmen and women prepare for the fall hunting season. Pro staff experts will be on hand to give seminars and tips on hunting. Vendors will demonstrate new products at the store as well. Officials with Ducks Unlimited and Texas Parks and Wildlife also will be on hand to answer questions.

Aug. 5: The Texas state sanctioned championship duck-calling contest will be held at Bass Pro Shops Grapevine. The winner will represent Texas in the World's Championship Duck- Calling Contest in November. Location: Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, 2501 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine, TX 76051.

Time: 8 a.m. contestant check-in, contest starts 9 a.m. Cost: \$55.00 advance, \$60.00 day of. A free junior duck-calling class contest will be held as well. The public is invited to attend the contests. For more information, contact: Newell Cheatham, contest

calling chairman, at (281) 392.3034. Contestant entry form download available under Texas at www.stuttquartarkansas.com or www.basspro.com.

Aug. 5: Bonham SP will hold a back-to-school-teaching-youth-to-fish workshop. There will be instruction and hands-on activities from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, call (903) 583-5022.

Aug. 5: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Texas Lee County Bull Buster's Big Game Banquet will be held at Dime Box SPJST Hall in Dime Box. For tickets, contact Charles Mersiovsky at (979) 542-3258

Aug. 5: Buescher SP junior angler fishing clinic and family fishing celebration will be held from 9 a.m.-noon. The free clinic is for boys and girls, ages 6-13. Win some prizes and learn the basics of freshwater fishing. Fishing rods, reels and bait supplied. Parents should accompany their children. A hat, water, closed-toed shoes, insect repellent and sun block are strongly suggested. Fishing licenses are not required but fees apply. For more information, call (512) 237-2241.

Aug. 5: Galveston Island SP fishing clinic for kids ages 5-15 will be held 9 a.m. -noon. Space is limited. Contact Collin Campbell at fishingeventplanner06@yahoo.com or call the park at (409) 737-1222.

Aug. 10: San Gabriel CCA Banquet will be held at Dell

Diamond Heritage Center in Round Rock. For more information, call Robert Taylor at (800) 626-4222.

Aug. 10: Irving D.U. Banquet will be held at the Studios of Las Colinas. For more information, call Randy Chandler at (214) 957-2449.

Aug. 12: Aransas Bay CCA Banquet will be held at Paws 'N Taws in Rockport. For more information, call Kim Brown at (800) 626-4222.

Aug. 12: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Texas South/East Texas Chapter Big Game Banquet will be held in Beaumont. For tickets, contact Mark Tolar at (409) 673-2771.

Aug. 12: A \$40 snake-proofing clinic will be offered in Frisco. For more information, email wTxsdogman@Starband.net.

Aug. 15: Alamo Fly Fishers will present "The Reel Guys" at the group's 7 p.m. meeting at the lower level of the Alamo Heights Presbyterian Church, 6201 Broadway at Corona St. in San Antonio. The speakers, Ken Ford and Tommy Nelms, are from ESPN's "Adventures of Hoot and Flakes."

Aug. 16: Dallas Safari Club monthly's meeting at the Bent Tree Country Club will feature David Moore of William, Larkin, Moore & Co., who will speak on "The Fine Sporting Shotgun." Cost is \$35 per person. Go to www.biggame.org for more information. To register, call (972) 980-9800.

Aug. 17: Hill Country CCA

Banquet will be held at the Seguin Coliseum. Call John Blaha at (800) 626-4222 for more information.

Aug. 17: Northwest Houston CCA Banquet will be held at Sam Houston Race Park. For more information, call Scott Yull at (713) 844-0892,

Aug. 19: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Texas Greater Hill Country Chapter Big Game Banquet will be held at the Pioneer Pavilion in Fredericksburg. For tickets, contact Pat O'Neil at (830) 997-9889.

Aug. 19-27: Annual Fall Hunting Classic at Katy Bass Pro Shops will feature two weekends of guides, outfitters, taxidermists, conservation groups and more. Ducks Unlimited will also stage calling contests and the ultimate vehicle makeover will be announced. Free Boone & Crocket Scoring (bring your racks) will be offered. Plus, pro dog handlers will offer seminars and retriever demonstrations. Call (281) 644-2200 or visit basspro.com for more information.

Aug. 26: Concho Valley Friends of the NRA Banquet will be held at the San Angelo Convention Center. Call Dave Koch at (325) 944-1022 for reservations and tickets.

Why spend another night with the remote?

When you should be enjoying an evening of camaraderie and conservation.

20th Big Game Banquet

hosted by the

North Texas Chapter

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

on

Saturday August 5, 2006

at the

Embassy Suites Hotel at Bass-Pro Grapevine

Doors to the banquet will open at 5:30pm

This event will feature a

Silent Auction, Raffles, Live Auction, Hunts and Guns including a Hill Country Rifle.

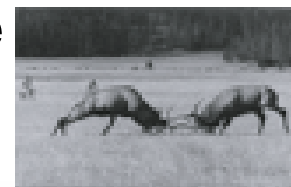
The evening has something for everyone

Ladies and kids too.

Single Tickets are \$75.00 Couple Tickets are \$115.00

both prices include a 1 year membership

For tickets and info. call 972-257-0001 or 469-293-6375
 or just visit us at www.ntrmef.org



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MOON PHASES

Full Aug 9  Last Aug 15  New Aug 23  First Aug 31 

SOLUNAR TABLE Major/Minor periods:

	Houston	Dallas	San Antonio	Amarillo
8/9	12:11p/5:57a	9:20p/3:06p	12:17p/6:03a	9:26p/3:12p
8/10	—/6:26p	9:40a/3:28a	—/6:32p	9:46a/3:34a
8/11	12:41a/6:55a	10:06p/3:53p	12:47a/7:01a	10:12p/3:59p
8/12	1:08p/7:22p	10:26a/4:14a	1:14p/7:28p	10:32a/4:20a
8/13	1:39a/7:52a	10:51p/4:38p	1:45a/7:58a	10:57p/4:44p
8/14	2:05p/8:18p	11:10a/4:59a	2:11p/8:24p	11:16a/5:05a
8/15	2:36a/8:49a	11:33p/5:22p	2:42a/8:55a	11:39p/5:28p
8/16	3:01p/9:14p	11:53a/5:42a	3:07p/9:20p	11:59a/5:48a
8/17	3:33a/9:45a	—/6:04p	3:39a/9:51a	—/6:10p
8/18	3:58p/10:10p	12:14a/6:25a	4:04p/10:16p	11:59 p.m./6:31a
8/19	4:29a/10:42a	12:35p/6:45p	4:35a/10:48a	4:29a/6:51p
8/20	4:55p/11:07p	12:58a/7:07a	5:01p/11:13p	4:55p/7:13a
8/21	5:24a/11:37a	1:17p/7:27p	5:30a/11:43a	5:24a/7:33p
8/22	5:51p/—	1:40a/7:50a	5:57p/—	5:51p/7:56a
8/23	6:18a/12:04a	2:00p/8:30p	6:24a/12:10a	6:18a/8:15p
8/24	6:46p/12:32p	2:24a/8:34a	6:52p/12:38p	6:46p/8:40a
8/25	7:11a/12:57a	2:44p/8:54p	7:17a/1:03a	7:11a/9:00p
8/26	7:39p/1:25p	3:09a/9:19a	7:45p/1:31p	7:39p/9:25a
8/27	8:03a/1:49a	3:29p/9:40p	8:09a/1:55a	8:03a/9:46p
8/28	8:31p/2:17p	3:55a/10:06a	8:37p/2:23p	8:31p/10:12a

TIDES

	High	Low	High	Low		High	Low	High	Low		High	Low	High	Low
Sabine Pass					Freeport					Corpus Christi				
8/9	5:27 a.m.	9:38 a.m.	1:25 p.m.	10:26 p.m.	8/9	5:28 a.m.	9:08 a.m.	1:26 p.m.	9:56 p.m.	8/9	5:36 a.m.	8:46 a.m.	1:34 p.m.	9:34 p.m.
8/10	5:46 a.m.	10:33 a.m.	2:53 p.m.	11:13 p.m.	8/10	5:47 a.m.	10:03 a.m.	2:54 p.m.	10:43 p.m.	8/10	5:55 a.m.	9:41 a.m.	3:02 p.m.	10:21 p.m.
8/11	6:02 a.m.	11:34 a.m.	4:27 p.m.	—	8/11	6:03 a.m.	11:04 a.m.	4:28 p.m.	11:31 p.m.	8/11	6:11 a.m.	10:42 a.m.	4:36 p.m.	11:09 p.m.
8/12	6:17 a.m.	12:01 a.m.	6:12 p.m.	12:37 p.m.	8/12	6:18 a.m.	12:07 p.m.	6:13 p.m.	—	8/12	6:26 a.m.	11:45 a.m.	6:21 p.m.	11:59 p.m.
8/13	6:30 a.m.	12:51 a.m.	8:07 p.m.	1:41 p.m.	8/13	6:31 a.m.	12:21 a.m.	8:08 p.m.	1:11 p.m.	8/13	6:39 a.m.	12:49 p.m.	8:16 p.m.	—
8/14	6:38 a.m.	1:47 a.m.	10:15 p.m.	2:44 p.m.	8/14	6:39 a.m.	1:17 a.m.	10:16 p.m.	2:14 p.m.	8/14	6:47 a.m.	12:55 a.m.	10:24 p.m.	1:52 p.m.
8/15	6:32 a.m.	3:17 a.m.	—	3:48 p.m.	8/15	6:33 a.m.	2:47 a.m.	—	3:18 p.m.	8/15	6:41 a.m.	2:25 a.m.	—	2:56 p.m.
8/16	12:26 a.m.	4:51 p.m.	—	—	8/16	12:27 a.m.	4:21 p.m.	—	—	8/16	12:35 a.m.	3:59 p.m.	—	—
8/17	1:56 a.m.	5:54 p.m.	—	—	8/17	1:57 a.m.	5:24 p.m.	—	—	8/17	2:05 a.m.	5:02 p.m.	—	—
8/18	2:55 a.m.	6:54 p.m.	—	—	8/18	2:56 a.m.	6:24 p.m.	—	—	8/18	3:04 a.m.	6:02 p.m.	—	—
8/19	3:45 a.m.	7:49 p.m.	—	—	8/19	3:46 a.m.	7:19 p.m.	—	—	8/19	3:54 a.m.	7:18 p.m.	—	—
8/20	4:26 a.m.	8:38 p.m.	—	—	8/20	4:27 a.m.	8:08 p.m.	—	—	8/20	4:35 a.m.	7:46 p.m.	—	—
8/21	4:57 a.m.	9:19 p.m.	—	—	8/21	4:58 a.m.	8:49 p.m.	—	—	8/21	5:06 a.m.	8:27 p.m.	—	—
8/22	5:11 a.m.	10:18 a.m.	12:51 p.m.	9:52 p.m.	8/22	5:12 a.m.	9:48 a.m.	12:52 p.m.	9:22 p.m.	8/22	5:20 a.m.	9:26 a.m.	1:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.
8/23	5:15 a.m.	10:20 a.m.	1:52 p.m.	10:20 p.m.	8/23	5:16 a.m.	9:50 a.m.	1:53 p.m.	9:50 p.m.	8/23	5:24 a.m.	9:28 a.m.	2:01 p.m.	9:28 p.m.
8/24	5:19 a.m.	10:46 a.m.	2:53 p.m.	10:45 p.m.	8/24	5:20 a.m.	10:16 a.m.	2:54 p.m.	10:15 p.m.	8/24	5:28 a.m.	9:54 a.m.	3:02 p.m.	9:53 p.m.
8/25	5:26 a.m.	11:22 a.m.	4:00 p.m.	11:09 p.m.	8/25	5:27 a.m.	10:52 a.m.	4:01 p.m.	10:39 p.m.	8/25	5:35 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	4:09 p.m.	10:17 p.m.
8/26	5:34 a.m.	12:00 p.m.	5:15 p.m.	11:34 p.m.	8/26	5:35 a.m.	11:30 a.m.	5:16 p.m.	11:04 p.m.	8/26	5:43 a.m.	11:08 a.m.	5:24 p.m.	10:42 p.m.
8/27	5:40 a.m.	12:38 p.m.	6:40 p.m.	—	8/27	5:41 a.m.	12:08 p.m.	6:41 p.m.	11:32 p.m.	8/27	5:49 a.m.	11:46 a.m.	6:49 p.m.	11:10 p.m.
8/28	5:40 a.m.	12:02 a.m.	8:15 p.m.	1:16 p.m.	8/28	5:41 a.m.	12:46 p.m.	8:16 p.m.	—	8/28	5:49 a.m.	12:24 p.m.	8:03 p.m.	11:39 p.m.
8/29	5:21 a.m.	12:31 a.m.	10:05 p.m.	1:57 p.m.	8/29	5:22 a.m.	12:01 a.m.	10:06 p.m.	1:27 p.m.	8/29	5:30 a.m.	1:05 p.m.	10:14 p.m.	—
Port Bolivar					Pass Cavallo					South Padre Island				
8/9	7:42 a.m.	10:25 a.m.	3:40 p.m.	11:13 p.m.	8/9	6:45 a.m.	8:56 a.m.	2:43 p.m.	9:44 p.m.	8/9	6:35 a.m.	9:53 p.m.	—	—
8/10	8:01 a.m.	11:20 a.m.	5:08 p.m.	—	8/10	7:04 a.m.	9:51 a.m.	4:11 p.m.	10:31 p.m.	8/10	6:45 a.m.	11:01 a.m.	2:02 p.m.	10:43 p.m.
8/11	8:17 a.m.	12:00 a.m.	6:42 p.m.	12:21 p.m.	8/11	7:20 a.m.	10:52 a.m.	5:45 p.m.	11:19 p.m.	8/11	6:41 a.m.	11:19 a.m.	4:01 p.m.	11:34 p.m.
8/12	8:32 a.m.	12:48 a.m.	8:27 p.m.	1:24 p.m.	8/12	7:35 a.m.	11:55 a.m.	7:30 p.m.	—	8/12	6:29 a.m.	11:56 a.m.	5:57 p.m.	—
8/13	8:45 a.m.	1:38 a.m.	10:22 p.m.	2:28 p.m.	8/13	7:48 a.m.	12:09 a.m.	9:25 p.m.	12:59 p.m.	8/13	6:09 a.m.	12:27 a.m.	8:04 p.m.	12:42 p.m.
8/14	8:53 a.m.	2:34 a.m.	—	3:31 p.m.	8/14	7:56 a.m.	1:05 a.m.	11:33 p.m.	2:02 p.m.	8/14	5:38 a.m.	1:27 a.m.	10:36 p.m.	1:35 p.m.
8/15	12:30 a.m.	4:04 a.m.	8:47 a.m.	4:35 p.m.	8/15	7:50 a.m.	2:35 a.m.	—	3:06 p.m.	8/15	—	2:33 p.m.	—	—
8/16	2:41 a.m.	5:38 p.m.	—	—	8/16	1:44 a.m.	4:09 p.m.	—	—	8/16	1:12 a.m.	3:37 p.m.	—	—
8/17	4:11 a.m.	6:41 p.m.	—	—	8/17	3:14 a.m.	5:12 p.m.	—	—	8/17	2:41 a.m.	4:45 p.m.	—	—
8/18	5:10 a.m.	7:41 p.m.	—	—	8/18	4:13 a.m.	6:12 p.m.	—	—	8/18	3:41 a.m.	5:53 p.m.	—	—
8/19	6:00 a.m.	8:36 p.m.	—	—	8/19	5:03 a.m.	7:07 p.m.	—	—	8/19	4:31 a.m.	6:56 p.m.	—	—
8/20	6:41 a.m.	9:25 p.m.	—	—	8/20	5:44 a.m.	7:56 p.m.	—	—	8/20	5:14 a.m.	7:53 p.m.	—	—
8/21	7:12 a.m.	10:06 p.m.	—	—	8/21	6:15 a.m.	8:37 p.m.	—	—	8/21	5:48 a.m.	8:43 p.m.	—	—
8/22	7:26 a.m.	11:05 a.m.	3:06 p.m.	10:39 p.m.	8/22	6:29 a.m.	9:36 a.m.	2:09 p.m.	9:10 p.m.	8/22	6:11 a.m.	9:26 p.m.	—	—
8/23	7:30 a.m.	11:07 a.m.	4:07 p.m.	11:07 p.m.	8/23	6:33 a.m.	9:38 a.m.	3:10 p.m.	9:38 p.m.	8/23	6:21 a.m.	10:21 a.m.	1:18 p.m.	10:03 p.m.
8/24	7:34 a.m.	11:33 a.m.	5:08 p.m.	11:32 p.m.	8/24	6:37 a.m.	10:04 a.m.	4:11 p.m.	10:03 p.m.	8/24	6:19 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	2:38 p.m.	10:37 p.m.
8/25	7:41 a.m.	12:09 p.m.	6:15 p.m.	11:56 p.m.	8/25	6:44 a.m.	10:40 a.m.	5:18 p.m.	10:27 p.m.	8/25	6:08 a.m.	10:48 a.m.	3:52 p.m.	11:08 p.m.
8/26	7:49 a.m.	12:47 p.m.	7:30 p.m.	—	8/26	6:52 a.m.	11:18 a.m.	6:33 p.m.	10:52 p.m.	8/26	5:50 a.m.	11:11 a.m.	5:06 p.m.	11:40 p.m.
8/27	7:55 a.m.	12:21 a.m.	8:55 p.m.	1:25 p.m.	8/27	6:58 a.m.	11:56 a.m.	7:58 p.m.	11:20 p.m.	8/27	5:25 a.m.	11:36 a.m.	6:26 p.m.	—
8/28	7:55 a.m.	12:49 a.m.	10:30 p.m.	2:03 p.m.	8/28	6:58 a.m.	12:34 p.m.	9:33 p.m.	11:49 p.m.	8/28	4:56 a.m.	12:15 a.m.	8:00 p.m.	12:06 p.m.
8/29	7:36 a.m.	1:18 a.m.	—	2:44 p.m.	8/29	6:39 a.m.	1:15 p.m.	11:23 p.m.	—	8/29	4:14 a.m.	1:01 a.m.	10:05 p.m.	12:43 p.m.
San Luis Pass					Port O'Connor					Port Isabel				
8/9	6:36 a.m.	10:07 a.m.	2:34 p.m.	10:55 p.m.	8/9	1:48 p.m.	12:38 a.m.	—	—	8/9	6:35 a.m.	9:17 a.m.	2:33 p.m.	10:05 p.m.
8/10	6:55 a.m.	11:02 a.m.	4:02 p.m.	11:42 p.m.	8/10	3:44 p.m.	1:21 a.m.	—	—	8/10	6:54 a.m.	10:12 a.m.	4:01 p.m.	10:52 p.m.
8/11	7:11 a.m.	12:03 p.m.	5:36 p.m.	—	8/11	5:52 p.m.	2:00 a.m.	—	—	8/11	7:10 a.m.	11:13 a.m.	5:35 p.m.	11:40 p.m.
8/12	7:26 a.m.	12:30 a.m.	7:21 p.m.	1:06 p.m.	8/12	9:42 a.m.	2:31 a.m.	8:08 p.m.	1:46 p.m.	8/12	7:25 a.m.	12:16 p.m.	7:20 p.m.	—
8/13	7:39 a.m.	1:20 a.m.	9:16 p.m.	2:10 p.m.	8/13	8:24 a.m.	2:45 a.m.	11:16 p.m.	3:15 p.m.	8/13	7:38 a.m.	12:30 a.m.	9:15 p.m.	1:20 p.m.
8/14	7:47 a.m.	2:16 a.m.	11:24 p.m.	3:13 p.m.	8/14	7:42 a.m.	1:58 a.m.	—	4:28 p.m.	8/14	7:46 a.m.	1:26 a.m.	11:23 p.m.	2:23 p.m.
8/15	7:41 a.m.	3:46 a.m.	—	4:17 p.m.	8/15	7:28 a.m.	5:38 p.m.	—	—	8/15	7:40 a.m.	2:56 a.m.	—	3:27 p.m.
8/16	1:35 a.m.	5:20 p.m.	—	—	8/16	7:41 a.m.	6:51 p.m.	—	—	8/16	1:34 a.m.	4:30 p.m.	—	—
8/17	3:05 a.m.	6:23 p.m.	—	—	8/17	8:09 a.m.	8:06 p.m.	—	—	8/17	12:57 a/3:48p	12:56a/4:05p	1:12a/4:00p	1:07a/4:32p
8/18	4:04 a.m.	7:23 p.m.	—	—	8/18	8:47 a.m.	9:20 p.m.	—	—	8/18	4:03 a.m.	6:33 p.m.	—	—
8/19	4:54 a.m.	8:18 p.m.	—	—	8/19	9:28 a.m.	10:28 p.m.	—	—	8/19	4:53 a.m.	7:28 p.m.	—	—
8/20	5:35 a.m.	9:07 p.m.	—	—	8/20	10:13 a.m.	11:26 p.m.	—	—	8/20	5:34 a.m.	8:17 p.m.	—	—
8/21	6:06 a.m.	9:48 p.m.	—	—	8/21	11:01 a.m.	—	—	—	8/21	6:05 a.m.	8:58 p.m.	—	—
8/22	6:20 a.m.	10:47 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	10:21 p.m.	8/22	11:56 a.m.	12:17 a.m.	—	—	8/22	6:19 a.m.	9:57 a.m.	1:59 p.m.	9:31 p.m.
8/23	6:24 a.m.	10:49 a.m.	3:01 p.m.	10:49 p.m.	8/23	2:44 p.m.	1:01 a.m.	—	—	8/23	6:23 a.m.	9:59 a.m.	3:00 p.m.	9:59 p.m.
8/24	6:28 a.m.	11:15 a.m.	4:02 p.m.	11:14 p.m.	8/24	4:50 p.m.	1:41 a.m.	—	—	8/24	6:27 a.m.	10:25 a.m.	4:01 p.m.	10:24 p.m.
8/25	6:35 a.m.	11:51 a.m.	5:09 p.m.	11:38 p.m.	8/25	6:22 p.m.	2:17 a.m.	—	—	8/25	6:34 a.m.	11:01 a.m.	5:08 p.m.	10:48 p.m.
8/26	6:43 a.m.	12:29 p.m.	6:24 p.m.	—	8/26	10:26 a.m.	2:51 a.m.	7:53 p.m.	1:09 p.m.	8/26	6:42 a.m.	11:39 a.m.	6:23 p.m.	11:13 p.m.
8/27	6:49 a.m.	12:03 a.m.	7:49 p.m.	1:07 p.m.	8/27	8:40 a.m.	3:24 a.m.	9:42 p.m.	1:56 p.m.	8/27	6:48 a.m.	12:17 p.m.	7:48 p.m.	11:41 p.m.
8/28	6:49 a.m.	12:31 a.m.	9:24 p.m.	1:45 p.m.	8/28	6:29 a.m.	3:53 a.m.	—	2:40 p.m.	8/28	6:48 a.m.	12:55 p.m.	9:23 p.m.	—
8/29	6:30 a.m.	1:00 a.m.	11:14 p.m.	2:26 p.m.	8/29	4:56 a.m.	3:29 p.m.	—	—	8/29</				



DUSK CASTING: Anglers fishing from sundown into the night produce good catches of bass at Lake Fork during the summer heat.

Fork

Continued from Page 1

during summer heat. August and September each produced two top 50 bass with July adding another Lake Fork lunger.

The list includes the current number four fish on the Texas list. On Aug. 29, 1990, Jerry New landed a 17.63-pounder.

"On any day of the year, on any cast, anyone might land a double-digit bass on Lake Fork," said David Vance, a professional bass angler

and guide from Winnsboro. "Lake Fork produces a lot of fish in the 2- to 7-pound range and many bass exceeding 13 pounds."

Vance has fished the lake since construction ended on the dam in 1980 and guided almost as long. Growing up in the area, he remembers how humps and ridges looked before the lake filled.

He's used that knowledge to boat nearly 300 double-digit Lake Fork bass during the past 25 years.

"From July through mid-September, fish congregate on main lake points with grass that drop into deep water," Vance said.

"I also fish old roadbeds and humps in 15 to 25 feet of water. Sometimes, bass sit on the old roadbeds and sometimes they hang over the ditches, dashing over the road top to eat shad before dropping back over the edge.

"Some of the best summer areas include the main lake between Little Caney Creek and Wolf Creek. The area between the Highway 515 East or West bridges and the dam is another very good summer area."

For summer lungers, Vance recommends slowly dragging Carolina rigs through deep cover. Oddly, for big bass, he tips his rigs

with small baits, mostly 4- to 6-inch "do-nothing" worms.

"I've caught many 10- and 11-pound bass on small baits," the pro said. "I downsize baits in the summer because that's when most shad hatch. Most shad are about 2-inches long and bass feed heavily upon them.

"A Carolina rig allows anglers to fish small baits in deep water. Some of my favorites for Carolina-rigging include lizards, flukes, finesse worms and centipedes."

In the summer, people can't drag a Carolina rig across the bottom too slowly, Vance said,

because fish often won't bite unless something passes right in front of their noses.

The weight can create a mud trail as it scrapes along logs, stumps and grass on the bottom. Use light wire hooks so that baits move in a natural, subtle fashion. Often, a slight jerk kicks a bait 6 to 8 inches off the bottom and makes the sinker click against the bead, causing sound that might attract fish. Hot Lake Fork soft plastic colors include watermelon, black and blue flake, purple or any greenish color.

John N. Felsher is an outdoor writer from Arkansas.

Grass

Continued from Page 1

less or with various sizes of bullet sinkers.

A relatively new twist to add weight to a weedless soft-plastic is the DOA Pinch Weight. This small sliver of lead is designed to attach to the shank of a weedless worm hook, adding the necessary weight while allowing the bait to descend in a horizontal fashion, instead of 'head first.'

Anglers looking to fish their soft-plastics on jig heads also have more weedless options than before. Among the best options available are the TitleShot Jig from Fin-tech Tackle and Stanley Lures' Frog Hook.

Of the two, the Title SHot more closely imitates the action of a bait pinned to a traditional jig head and should be the choice for anglers wanting to impart an up-and-down 'jigging action.'

However, the Frog Hook's unique "planing weight" gives it an advantage in other situations.

"Because of the way the weight is designed, the bait tends to swim to the surface when you reel it," said lure designer Lonnie Stanley. "But, you can also use it like a standup jig and, if you retrieve it real slow, you can drag it along the bottom through the grass."

Even hard-core topwater pluggers have weedless options today. DOA Lures' Chug Head is a soft-plastic head designed to be paired with a soft-plastic tail and rigged on a weedless worm hook. Not only does this system give anglers



ROOTING GRASS: A red drum searches for food on the grassy bottom of the Lower Laguna Madre.

'Because of the way the weight is designed, the bait tends to swim to the surface when you reel it. But, you can also use it like a standup jig and, if you retrieve it real slow, you can drag it along the bottom through the grass.'

— LONNIE STANLEY

countless color options, but it allows fishermen a chance to use a surface offering at times when a typical multi-treble-hooked "bay rake" is rendered useless.

"The neat thing about this bait is you can rig it as a popper, or flip the head over and make it a diver," Capt. Rolando Gonzalez said. "It also lands quiet and gives you a chance to fish a topwater right through the grass."

Danno Wise is an outdoor writer, artist and fishing guide.



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TOURNAMENTS



CROWNED KINGS: Team Reel Screamer holds its winning kingfish weighing 53 pounds, 6 ounces. The team included Capt. Larry White, Mark Zapalac and Jerry Gattis.

WAL-MART FLW KINGFISH SERIES GULF COAST DIVISION

Team Reel Screamer, headed by Captain Larry White of Houston, caught a kingfish weighing 53 pounds, 6 ounces to win the Wal-Mart FLW Kingfish Series Gulf Coast Division event in Galveston. The top prize of \$21,000 included a \$9,000 Yamaha bonus.

Fishing with Mark Zapalac and Jerry Gattis, both of Houston, White ran 65 miles southeast of Galveston and fished rocky bottom in 90 feet of water. The winning fish hit a live blue runner around 9 a.m. Quick response, White said, was intrinsic to the big hookup.

"The fish actually hit the long line first, but came down on the

line and missed the bait," he said. "She was still hot right behind the boat so we fed another bait back to her and she ate it."

Rounding out the top five teams were Team Snafu captained by Stephen Barfoot of Satsuma, Ala. (50 pounds, 12 ounces); Team Rag-Tag captained by Creighton Parker of Pensacola, Fla. (45 pounds, 13 ounces); Team Speculator captained by George Simon III of Baton Rouge, La. (45 pounds, 8 ounces); Team Reel Deal captained by Chris Vanos of Alvin (44 pounds, 11 ounces).

FLW Kingfish Series qualifying tournaments are one-day events, and the winning team is determined based on the heaviest kingfish. The next FLW Kingfish Series Gulf Coast Division event

will be held Sept. 9 at Port Aransas.

BIG CATFISH SPLASH

The 3rd Annual Catfish Splash presented by Sealy Outdoors and the Lake Fork Chamber of Commerce was held on July 15 and 16. The 703 anglers caught 264 catfish in the two-day event, with an average weight of 4.5 pounds.

Brian Wells of Randolph Air Force Base captured first place with his 10.04-pound fish caught off a boat dock, and won a Triton boat and Mercury motor. Michael Littlejohn of Duncanville finished in second place at 8.62 pounds, and Tony Johnson of Athens followed at 8.53 pounds.

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This Promotion cannot be used in conjunction with any other Yamaha offer. Other restrictions and conditions apply. See authorized participating Yamaha Outboard dealers for complete details.

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115	\$750 Credit Toward Purchase of Goods/Services
150	\$750 Credit Toward Purchase of Goods/Services
200	\$750 Credit Toward Purchase of Goods/Services
225	\$750 Credit Toward Purchase of Goods/Services
Eligible 2-Stroke	
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Arrow Fletching	11:00am & 2:00pm Saturday & Sunday	Buda
Feed & Preparations for Fall	11:00am & 2:00pm Saturday & Sunday	Buda
Predator Calling Basics Handheld & Electronic Calls	11:00am & 2:00pm Saturday & Sunday	Buda
Snarfishing the Texas Coast	11:00am Friday & Saturday, 1:00pm Sunday	Buda
Choosing and Installing the Right Depthfinders	11:00am Friday & Saturday, 1:00pm Sunday	Buda
Kid's Archery Shoot	12:00-2:00pm Saturday & Sunday	Fort Worth
Campfire Cooking for the Kids (Hot Dogs, S'mores, etc.)	12:00-4:00pm Saturday & Sunday	Buda
Aquascopia and Pond Feeding	1:00pm Saturday & Sunday	Fort Worth
Knife Sharpening Seminar	1:00pm Saturday & Sunday	Fort Worth
Fry'in Up a Good Thing Turkey & Fish Fryer Seminar	1:00-4:00pm Saturday & Sunday	Fort Worth
Scouting Camera Basics & Slide Show	1:00, 3:00, & 5:00pm Saturday & Sunday	Fort Worth
Fly Fishing Texas Where & How	1:30pm Saturday & Sunday	Fort Worth
Accessorizing Your Pontoon Boat	2:00pm Saturday & Sunday	Fort Worth
Deepwater Fishing Tips, Techniques & Tactics; How To Fish Open Water Lakes	2:30pm Saturday & Sunday	Fort Worth
Black Powder Hunting for Beginners	3:00pm Saturday & Sunday	Fort Worth
Ground Blind/Tripod Basics & Shooting Demos at the Archery Range	3:00-5:00pm Saturday & Sunday	Fort Worth
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